

## Is It Okay if Your Children Forget What You Said?

### I. The Nature of Forgettable Conversations

- How much do you remember from fifth grade? I have a feeling that there are a number of academic concepts you can remember learning. The ones you remember are either the ones with which you greatly struggled, or they were the ideas you understood quickly and — with which — you had great success.
- But even though you probably don't remember the hours upon hours of formal teaching and informal conversations you had with your 5th grade teacher, you probably remember the person.
- In fact, you probably have deeply formed ideas about who they were, what kind of a person they were, what they thought of you, and how much they cared or didn't care for you. And — in the case of a high school teacher who helped you be passionate about a subject you previously didn't like — you probably liked the subject less because of what they taught young more because how much they cared for the subject and how much they cared about you.

### II. The Value of Forgettable Conversations

- **The Forgettable Conversation is valuable in the moment.**
  - Proverbs 25:11
  - We have forgettable conversations because we have been commanded to speak and to do so as God would speak.
  - Even though Jesus knew His disciples would forget much of what He said, He said it anyway because they needed to hear it in the moment.
- **The Forgettable Conversation is a brick in the wall of your character.**
  - Consider a piece of paper with a thin line of watercolor paint. When you focus on that thin line you realize that it's a holy color. It's good and loving and truthful and spoken for the glory of God. Of course, next to that line, you have six sinful lines. They're a little thicker, and they're much uglier, and that's what you see all across the page. Beautiful Christ-honoring lines here and there, and self-worshipping lines everywhere else.
  - When you think back on your parenting, you'll likely focus on all the times you painted a perfect line of biblical Ambassadorial parenting. But, over time, what's going to happen in your kids' minds is that all of those watercolors are going to bleed together. The bright colors of sanctified parenting will mix with the dark lines of selfishness. And — you know what — your parenting won't be remembered by your children as well as you may think. That smudged and blurry impression will be how your kids view your character.
  - This speaks to the importance of each and every forgettable conversation. Yes, the individual colored lines will be forgotten, but the picture they create will be remembered by your kids for the rest of their lives.
- **The Forgettable Conversation is vital to your children's cumulative understanding.**
  - Imagine that every time you talked about school and work and friends and food that you brought God's Word to bear on the conversation. Imagine that you were intentionally and premeditatedly were trying to be a disciple-making Ambassador Parent in everything you did. Can you even begin to imagine how scripturally literate and biblically wise your children may become. And it won't be because they remember all of those conversations verbatim, it will be because all of that teaching and interpreting and counseling and training had one grand and glorious theme tied all throughout, and that theme was the knowledge and worship of God.
  - All of those Forgettable Conversations you have with your kids are vitally important because they will potentially be the foundational groundwork of their spiritual lives and maturity.

- **The Forgettable Conversation — when steeped in God’s Truth — will not return void.**
  - First, we need to stop being selfish pigs. Our parenting has to be about God, not us.
  - Second, we need to understand the points being made today. This will constantly remind us that our parenting is made up of really important little sprints, but it’s also a gigantic marathon. The big picture matters too.
    - With that in mind, when we give our kids really important information, and they forget it, and then we react arrogantly — in the long run — we’re likely teaching our kids how to be selfish better than we’re teaching them how to be godly.
  - And third, we need to take solace in the fact that when our Forgettable Conversation is bursting with Scripture and It’s wise application in our lives, we have God’s promise that His Word will not return void.
- Isaiah 55:10-11
  - When our conversations are chock-full of the same words that proceed from God’s mouth, we can know for certain that they will not return empty. They will succeed in the purpose that God has for them.
- John 16:7-15.
  - Here we have a secondary promise that not only will God’s Word not return void, but the Holy Spirit has been tasked with taking the Father’s will and declaring it to His children and using God’s Word to convict the unsaved world of sin and righteousness and judgement.
  - Therefore, whether our kids are saved or not, when we speak God’s Word into their lives, we’re not speaking our words in our strength, we’re speaking God’s words in the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Love.  
Parent.

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