

First Tracks Cut Deepest

Dr. Stephen Estock and Katie Flores

[Jesus said:] ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
John 15:4-5, 9 (ESV)

- I. Parenting is a matter of identity.
- II. Parents reflect (or react against) the way they were parented.
- III. We struggle with the “untruths” embraced by our culture.
- IV. Anxiety is an obstacle AND an opportunity.
- V. The gospel shapes the parenting of believers.
- VI. Parenting obstacles
- VII. Family rhythms
- VIII. The importance of prayer.

Children and the Covenant of Grace

Katie Flores

*24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever.
25 And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'
27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.' And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. Exodus 12:24–27*

I. Compassion

II. Opportunity of the Church

III. Intentionally Telling God's Story

IV. Our Theology Impacts Our Methods

Resources:

Parenting Ahead by Kristen Hatton

Road Talk/Meal Talk/Soul Talk (multiple volumes) by John Kwasny

Grandpa's Box by Starr Meade

Heirs of the Covenant by Susan Hunt

Church and Home: A Partnership

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²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)

- I. Partnership “We are all in this together, and everyone plays a role.”

- II. Bridging Sunday to Sunday

- III. The doctrine of the Church helps us see our role.

- IV Parenting changes over time: 1) our role, 2) the level of our control.

- V. The role of perspective in spiritual development.

Possible Practical Takeaways

Make a list of “first tracks.”	Begin or restart family worship.
Write prayer cards/popsicle sticks.	Teach Sunday school.
Resource to buy and read.	Invite people over who point your family to Jesus/be that someone.
Look for a mentor/be a mentor.	Consider your idols/Evaluate your boundaries ... repent where needed.
Seize found moments to ask questions and tell God’s story.	Name family habits and rhythms you desire.
Build skills at home that can be practiced in worship.	Look for places for your children to serve in the church.