



Introduction

Welcome to the fifth and final week of our *How to Help My Kids* series! If you look back on our topics throughout this series – success, gender, friends, and behavior – there is a certain tension between risk and safety to manage in each of them. It's a nuanced relationship that needs to ebb and flow based on situation, child, and topic, but we have to admit it can be easy to default into one or the other based on our own history, experiences, and convictions. As we wrap up this parenting series, Pastor John teaches us how to help our kids be safe, sent, and savvy.

Discussion

1. Think back to your childhood. What was your family's approach to safety? Were they aware of the risks and opportunities around you? Were they under protective or over protective? Why?
2. In light of your family history, how do you view and practice safety with kids now? Can you identify what else may be motivating your approach?
3. **Revisit Luke 2:41-52.** Jesus' parents' expectations and plans didn't always align with where God was leading Him. While our kids' stories will differ from Jesus', Pastor John teaches God does have a plan and purpose for our kids that is far better and more important than our own. How can you continue to align your desires for your kids' lives with God's while being open handed and ready for where God leads and sends them?
4. **Revisit Matthew 10:16.** Jesus' direction to be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves encourages us and our kids to be savvy – to combine a discerning wisdom with a strong gentleness. How can you help your kids embrace and discern the truth of a dangerous world while remaining gentle and loving toward it?

Take Action

1. **Help your kids pay attention to their outer environment.** Spend time talking through tough situations they're facing today. Meet them where they are, listen first, and ask questions to help them discover nuance and meaning in their lives and relationships.
2. **Help your kids pay attention to their inner environment.** Slow down and ask how your kids are viewing and feeling about what they're working through and who they're interacting with. Help them discover and name their emotions and how God is meeting and teaching in each.
3. **Help your kids pay attention to how their actions affect others.** Developing empathy will help them grow in their own self-awareness and awareness of others. Asking them, "How do you think your actions made that other person feel?" can help them think critically and thoughtfully about social dynamics, personal responsibility, and how God works and moves in relationships.

Resources

[PLC Parenting Resources Page](#)