



COU 305 - 3 credits

Parenting for Success

Description:

The focus of this course is on releasing the grace of God into your home, making it a place of love, peace, honor and victorious Christian living where each member of the family is accepted as he is and strengthened to become all that he can be in Christ. You will examine your life in the Light of the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and possibly be called upon to make significant changes in yourself and your family as a result of what you learn.

Course Texts:

Rivers of Grace by Mark and Patti Virkler

The Key to Your Child's Heart by Gary Smalley

Proactive Parenting: The Early Years by Larry Keefauver, D. Min.

Objectives:

Academic:

- You will quote the following Scriptures:
 - ✓ Exodus 20:3, 5, 6
 - ✓ Hebrews 8:10,11
 - ✓ Ephesians 6:2, 3
 - ✓ Matthew 7:12
 - ✓ 1 Corinthians 11:1 (Amplified Bible)
 - ✓ Ephesians 4:29
 - ✓ Romans 12:6a
 - ✓ Proverbs 22:29
 - ✓ Genesis 18:19 (personalized)
 - ✓ Psalm 127:3-5
 - ✓ Isaiah 49:1b-3
 - ✓ Colossians 3:12, 13 NIV
- You will discuss at least eight rivers or channels the Lord has ordained by which He wants to pour grace into your home and your children.
- You will state the foundation and six pillars of the Leader's Paradigm.

- You will discuss the relationship between law and grace in the believer's life and the significance this has on your parenting of your children.
- You will discuss at least three reasons why it is vital that you honor your father and mother.
- You will contrast the Golden Rule with the Silver Rule.
- You will discuss the power of the Golden Rule in parenting.
- You will discuss how you will apply the Golden Rule to achieve the goals God has given you for raising your children.
- You will discuss ways in which you can show respect to your children.
- You will state the five levels of basic human needs as described by Maslow, and discuss their application to your parenting.
- You will discuss the power of words to bring life and death.
- You will describe how the gifts of grace listed in Romans 12:6-8 apply to your parenting.
- You will discuss what the Lord has taught you concerning authority and submission in the body of Christ and in the home.
- You will state the meaning of the terms "*bar mitzvah*" and "*bat mitzvah*" and their significance in the life of a Jewish family.
- You will discuss the indications of a closed spirit.
- You will discuss the five steps to reopening the spirit of another.
- You will discuss how you can reopen your spirit toward another who has wounded you.
- You will describe the four main types of parents.
- You will state two of the most important factors in raising children, according to Smalley.
- You will discuss seven ways of expressing loving support given by Smalley.
- You will describe at least four aspects of listening in an understanding way.

Behavioral:

- You will cooperate with the Lord in clearing the channels of grace He has given of all the debris caused by your own words and deeds.
- You will begin appropriating by faith the cross of Christ to break the power of generational sins and curses from your life and the lives of your children.
- You will be more aware of the sins in your life that allow curses to come upon you, and you will quickly repent, removing any cause or place for that curse to alight.
- You will establish or strengthen a godly heritage for your children, clearing this river of grace and blessing by which God wants to visit your home.
- You will state the goal(s) the Lord has given you in raising your children, and what that means specifically in terms of how you will train and discipline them.
- You will confidently recognize the voice of the Lord in your own heart, and you will guide your children into the same experience.
- You will honor your parents.
- You will more actively live by the Golden Rule in your home.
- You will purpose in your spirit to call on God's grace to speak only words that give life, especially in your home.
- You will pronounce a blessing over each of your children, as the Lord leads.
- You will recognize your children's strengths and receive instructions from God on how to raise them to be expert in their callings, that this river of grace may flow freely to and through them.
- You will recognize your children's "weaknesses," and receive instructions from God on how to train them to use these weaknesses as opportunities for the grace of God to be manifest in their lives.
- You will reject the condemnation and accusation of the enemy against you for your personal weaknesses, focusing instead on the power of Christ Who lives within you to will and to do His good pleasure.
- You will reject the condemnation and accusation of the enemy against your children for their weakness, and instead stand with the Comforter, Encourager and Exhorter Who builds them up in faith and courage.
- You will embrace the ministry of raising your children.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D"
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C"
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B"
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A"
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

- You will know God’s will for you concerning the education of your children, and you will obey it, by His grace.
- You will hear from the Lord His instructions for releasing your children into personal responsibility before Him, and by His grace, you will obey Him.
- You will consistently be aware of the condition of the spirits of those you love toward you, and promptly take steps to keep all hearts open and warm toward you.
- You will consistently be aware of the condition of your spirit toward those you love, and promptly take steps to keep your heart open and warm toward all.
- You will evaluate your parenting in the Light of the Holy Spirit regarding the type of parent you are and how effectively you provide the important factors to your children.

Course Requirements:

- I. Completely read *Rivers of Grace* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering questions as assigned in the Course Schedule. You will be asked to answer the questions from the “Suggestions for Groups” appendix. These questions are designed to stimulate thought, prayer, journaling and discussion, and support changes in your habits and lifestyle. The more time and effort you put into answering these questions, the more permanent and profound will be the effects on your life and family. Do not give one word or one sentence answers. *Discuss!*
- II. Read Chapters 1 – 3 of *The Key to Your Child’s Heart* as assigned, answering the related questions found here in your Student Notebook.
- III. This Course Requirement will vary, depending upon where you are in your life as a parent.
 - A. **If you have children living at home**
 - 1) Complete all assignments for *Rivers of Grace* and *The Key to Your Child’s Heart* Chapters 1–3 as given in the Course Schedule. **In addition**, complete Option 1 and/or Option 2 as indicated below.
 - 2) **If you have children under the age of five (5)**, follow the instructions for “Option 1” (reading *Proactive Parenting: The Early Years*). In Lesson Six, you will write a paper

describing what the Lord quickened most to your heart through this book and how He has called you to change (if He has). Submit a copy of this paper to your instructor with Test One. Then, throughout the rest of the course, keep a journal/diary of your application of what the Lord has said to you. Record examples of when you obeyed the new things you are learning and the results, as well as times when you were not as successful in changing as you would have liked. You will use this diary in writing your final course paper. (**NOTE:** Be sure to come back to *The Key to Your Child’s Heart* before your children reach their sixth birthdays and read the chapters you are skipping for now. They will have a profound, positive impact on your parenting, your children and your home.)

- 3) **If your children are five years or older**, follow the instructions for “Option 2” (reading Chapters 4 – 8 of *The Key to Your Child’s Heart*). In Lesson Six, you will write a paper describing what the Lord quickened most to your heart through this book and how He has called you to change (if He has). Submit a copy of this paper to your instructor with Test One. Then, throughout the rest of the course, keep a journal/diary of your application of what the Lord has said to you. Record examples of when you obeyed the new things you are learning and the results, as well as times when you were not as successful in changing as you would have liked. You will use this diary in writing your final course paper.
 - 4) **If you have children in both age categories**, follow the instructions for both options (reading both books and writing two papers). You will receive an additional (free) credit for doing this extra work, and your children will bless you for it!
- B. **If you do not yet have children but expect to some day**
 - 1) Complete the basic reading assignments for *Rivers of Grace* and *The Key to Your Child’s Heart* Chapters 1–3. Many of the application questions instruct you to apply the principles you are learning to your relationship with your child. This would obviously be difficult for you to do. However, the principles that are at the heart of these texts are applicable

to every relationship in your life. Therefore, you are to choose one or two people who are important to you (spouse, friend, nieces/nephews, neighbors, etc.) and follow the application instructions with them. Try to use the same people throughout the course. These relationships will benefit greatly from your growth through what you are learning.

- 2) **In addition**, read both books: *Proactive Parenting* and *The Key to Your Child's Heart* Chapters 4 – 8. You may read one book in the first half of the course and the other in the second half, rather than both in the first six lessons as assigned. Write a final report detailing what the Lord ministered to you through them. He will no doubt use what you learn to minister life through you to others in the future. For you, this paper will replace that assigned in #IV below. This paper is to be submitted to your instructor in the final lesson (Lesson Twelve). It is to be a minimum of five typewritten pages, single spaced, maximum 12 point font.

C. If your children are grown and no longer living with you

- 1) Complete the basic reading assignments for *Rivers of Grace* and *The Key to Your Child's Heart*. Some of the application questions instruct you to apply the principles you are learning to your relationship with your child. This may be difficult for you to do. However, the principles that are at the heart of these texts are applicable to every relationship in your life, including your relationships with your grown children. If your adult children live near you, you see them regularly, and you want to increase the flow of grace into their lives and homes, do your best to make the

applications with them. If this is not possible or desirable, choose one or two other people who are important to you (spouse, friend, nieces/nephews, neighbors, grandchildren, etc.) and follow the application instructions with them. Try to use the same people throughout the course. These relationships will benefit greatly from your growth through what you are learning.

- 2) **In addition**, read both books: *Proactive Parenting* and *The Key to Your Child's Heart* Chapters 4 – 8. You may read one book in the first half of the course and the other in the second half, rather than both in the first six lessons as assigned. Write a final report detailing what the Lord ministered to you through them. He will no doubt use what you learn to minister life through you to others in the future. For you, this paper will replace that assigned in #IV below. This paper is to be submitted to your instructor in the final lesson (Lesson Twelve). It is to be a minimum of five typewritten pages, single spaced, maximum 12 point font.

IV. Write a final paper, detailing what the Lord said to you and did in you and accomplished through you through the training in this course. Give specific examples. Include samples of your journaling. Describe your victories and your less than victorious moments, and what you learned from each. Explain any future actions you will be taking and why. This paper is to be submitted to your instructor in the final lesson (Lesson Twelve). It is to be a minimum of four typewritten pages, single spaced, maximum 12 point font.

V. Earn at least a “B” on all Tests (not Self-Tests).



COU 305 Parenting for Success

Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Prayerfully read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of *Rivers of Grace*. Answer the questions from Appendix C beginning on page 169. Be sure to pray the prayer on page 26 in faith and with vision.

Option 1 (See Course Requirement #3 for details.): Prayerfully read the Foreword and pages 9 – 24 of *Proactive Parenting*. Complete the exercises on pages 19 and 24. After reading the text, ask the Lord through journaling what He wants you to learn from it, how He wants you to apply it, and any ways He wants to change you based on what you have read. Keep this journaling here in your Student Notebook to use in writing your papers.

Option 2 (See Course Requirement #3 for details.): Prayerfully read Chapter 4 of *The Key to Your Child's Heart*. After reading the text, ask the Lord through journaling what He wants you to learn from it, how He wants you to apply it, and any ways He wants to change you based on what you have read. Keep this journaling here in your Student Notebook to use in writing your papers.

Memorize Exodus 20:3,5,6.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Start with a Clean Slate

Related objectives:

You will quote Exodus 20:3,5,6. (You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.)

You will discuss at least eight rivers or channels the Lord has ordained by which He wants to pour grace into your home and your children.

You will begin appropriating by faith the cross of Christ to break the power of generational sins and curses from your life and the lives of your children.

You will be more aware of the sins in your life that allow curses to come upon you, and you will quickly repent, removing any cause or place for that curse to alight.

You will establish or strengthen a godly heritage for your children, clearing this river of grace and blessing by which God wants to visit your home.