

# PARENT *unscripted*

Children don't come with instructions. There's no script for handling all of the challenges parents face. But there is a set of principles to guide us and to give us the opportunity to grow and learn.

We hope Parent Unscripted encourages and equips you in one of your most important roles—**that of a parent.**

## PART 1 VIDEO RECAP

### FOUR STAGES OF PARENTING

- **Discipline years** (0-5)  
Teaching kids there are \_\_\_\_\_ for their behaviors
- **Training years** (5-12)  
Putting the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the \_\_\_\_\_
- **Coaching years** (12-18)  
Advising from the sidelines and moving toward \_\_\_\_\_ rather than correcting
- **Friendship years** (18+)  
Enjoying one another's company and processing life together

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 Which of the four stages of parenting are you currently in?
- 2 What's the most challenging part of the stage(s) you've experienced so far?
- 3 In the video, Andy said that the sequencing of the four stages is important (e.g., disciplining during the coaching years will cause kids to shut down). Did your parents get this sequencing right? Do you think you have so far?

4 Andy and Sandra narrowed in on the parenting objective to raise “children who want to be with us and with each other when they don’t have to be.” Do the following activity with your spouse to begin identifying your own parenting objective.

- List two current family traditions that you hope to still be doing when you’ve reached the friendship stage with all of your kids.

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- What’s one thing about each of your families of origin that you’d like to make true of your family as well?

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- Pick three adjectives from the list below that best describe the family culture you’d like to have.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respectful   | <input type="checkbox"/> Servant-hearted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loving       | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged      | <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonious      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energetic    | <input type="checkbox"/> Generous        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well-behaved | <input type="checkbox"/> Passionate      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honest       | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurous  | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-sufficient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connected    | <input type="checkbox"/> _____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educated     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____           |

5 What is one way you can deliberately foster your family culture in your current stage(s) of parenting?

## PART 2

# VIDEO RECAP

- In an environment of \_\_\_\_\_ there is virtually no need for \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ breaks a relationship.
- Emphasize honor over \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Tie rules to \_\_\_\_\_, not behaviors.

# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 In the video, Andy said that an environment without honor becomes an exhausting game of “catch me if you can.” Where have you seen this be true?
- 2 What is one practical way to create a family culture of honor in your current stage(s) of parenting? (Reminder: Andy and Sandra’s example was requiring the boys to stand at the dinner table until the ladies were seated.)
- 3 Why is lying so damaging to relationships?
- 4 In light of the suggestion to tie rules to relationships, not behaviors, how would you address each of the following scenarios with your child?

## SCENARIO #1

At baseball practice, your son displays a bad attitude by not hustling or following the coach’s instructions.

## SCENARIO #2

Your daughter has math class with her best friend. You get an email from the teacher explaining that the girls’ chatter has become a distraction to the rest of the class.

## SCENARIO #3

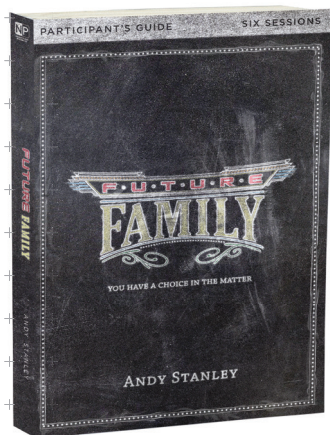
Your son is slow to wake up and get moving in the morning. When he misses the bus, you have to drive him to school, making you late for work.

### **Part 1 Answer Key for Blanks**

consequences      what  
why                      connecting

### **Part 2 Answer Key for Blanks**

honor      lying      relationships  
rules      obedience



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