

PARENT CUE



WONDER
DISCOVERY
PASSION

The Parent CUE helps a parent and student connect through dialog or shared experiences, and gives the student pastor a way to encourage and cue parents to talk about spiritual topics with their teens as well.

XP3HS.COM

THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE XP3

Chief Executive Officer

Reggie Joiner

Creative Director

Ben Crawshaw

Branding

Josh Lamm

Orange Specialists

Jeremy Zach

Ben Nunes

Matt Ivy

Wired Video

Blue Carousel

Productions

Chief Operating Officer

Reggie Goodin

Content Director

Crystal Chiang

XP3 HS Team

Sarah Anderson

Kristie McCollister

Steve Underwood

Technical & Web Support

Hadley Brandt

Wired Graphics

Ronald Rabideau

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PARENT CUE

POWER PLAY



WE'RE TEACHING THIS

Power is a good thing. And in most cases, more power is a better thing. We want our phones to be powered up, our cars to be powerful, our laptops to be powered on, and our football teams made of power players. But those aren't the only places that power is important to us. We all want to have power in relationships too. Maybe you've never thought about it that way but chances are you want people to listen to you, to pay attention to you or to care about what you think.

That's power. And whether you realize it or not, every relationship you have comes with some power or influence. Every interaction with another person is an opportunity to use your power, even if you feel like you don't have any. During this series we're going to talk about two people from the New Testament who looked at power differently than anyone else: Paul and Jesus. In their stories, we find that, no matter who is in control, there is always a power play we can make on behalf of others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

When you first became a family, you likely thought that you would never have a fight.

You would be a perfect couple.

Your son would discipline himself, and your daughter would, well, never sin because she's your daughter.

How's that going?

Hasn't really turned out that way, has it?

The sad reality is that every family fights. As much as we don't like it, we do. Most of us realize fighting is destructive and likely unChristian, but we don't know what to do about it.

And the stakes are high. Families, break up or break down as a result.

So what do you do about fighting?

Well, **if you're going to fight, just fight differently.** There are actually two ways for a family to fight.

- You can fight *with* each other.
- Or you can fight *for* each other.

These two small words—*for* and *with*—represent a world of difference in *how* you fight. Most of us have only ever had someone fight *with* us. If someone fights *with* you:



It's a zero sum game. They need to win and you need to lose or you need to win in order for them to lose. The people who fight care more about themselves than anyone. Both eventually walk away feeling diminished.

Contrast that with fighting for someone. When you fight *for* someone: You're fighting *for* them so you want to see them better off. The fight is happening because you want to see *them* win, not because you want to win. You care more about their interests than you do about yours. Both walk away replenished—with the relationship stronger in the short and long term. Even if the other person doesn't respond well, you have done everything in your power to help them, not hurt them.

Fighting *for* your family means you want their best interests to prevail, not yours. It means that when there's conflict, the conflict is about moving through an issue so that person is better off, not so you feel right or vindicated. And finally it means that everyone leaves better than before the fight, rather than depleted. Relationships are stronger and the issues got dealt with in a way that actually helped your family move forward.

From *How To Have A Family Fight* by Carey Nieuwhof www.theparentcue.org

TRY THIS

Sometimes fighting for your student means choosing which battles matter most right now and which can be walked away from, even if it's just for a little time. A heated argument, fueled with teenage sarcasm, can make any issue feel like a battle you must win—but that doesn't mean it is. When you choose to fight *for* your student, to fight for something that really matters in their life and their future, they'll be more likely to listen if they know you don't fight with them over *everything*.

Think about the last month with your student. **Write down the four areas where you experience the most conflict with them.** Maybe it's how they keep their room or how they drive the car. Maybe it's how little time they spend at home or how much time they spend with friends.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Now, take a look at your list and think about which ones matter most—not only to their high school career, but also to their future and the future of your relationship with them.

If you could only choose to fight one or two of these battles with your student, which would one(s) would you pick?

Next time you feel the power struggle start to rise in your house, take a quick peek back at this list. Is a fight brewing over something that really matters? Then, choose to fight *for* them. If it isn't, give yourself the permission to let this one go.