

2010 FEBRUARY EDITION

GracePoint Marriage & Family THRIVE

MAKING JESUS OUR TREASURE IN MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY



Valentines Day After Church Picnic!

Bring a picnic rug, sunscreen, drinks and lunch or Macca's to share, your bikes or a football, and your children!

We're having an after church picnic at **Wentworth Common** on Marjorie Jackson Parkway in Sydney Olympic Park which has playground facilities for the kids.

When: Sunday February 14th, 1pm

For a map with directions click [here](#), and for more information please contact Pastor Andrew Ku aku123@gmail.com

✕ Successful Parents? ✕

Successful Christian parenting begins when parents adopt a God entranced vision of life, where they are loving God with all their heart, soul and strength, and making Him their hope and treasure above everything else in life.

Over the last few weeks I've been slowly reading through Augustine's 'Confessions'. Augustine was born in 354 AD the son of an unbelieving father and a Christian mother. For the first 33 years of his life he lived as an unbeliever pursuing a hedonistic lifestyle, associating with company that was only interested in exploiting women for sex and power. Given every opportunity and as a gifted intellectual, at 30 years of age he rose to the highest possible chair academically and politically for the imperial court in Milan. During this time he also took a

concubine on the side for 13 years and had a son by her. This was his life before God found him. The 'confessions' are really Augustine's confession to God

reflecting on the life he lived before becoming a believer. It's been a compelling read, and though written almost 1600 years ago

everything he says resonates so much with the struggles, challenges, temptations and issues in our culture and society.

One of the things that struck me was Augustine's upbringing, and



COMMUNITY GROUPS 2010!

Grow & pursue a life that magnifies Jesus in community with others. Find out more or Join a GracePoint community group! Contact Pastor Owen Seto owen.seto@gmail.com

SUNDAY CHURCH

GracePoint Auburn 10.30am

Rawson Room, Auburn RSL,
33 Northumberland Road, Auburn 2144

GracePoint Burwood 5pm

46-48 Belmore Street, Burwood 2134

Website: www.gracepoint.org.au

Weekly Sermons Are Available
On Podcast For Download [here!](#)

If you or your spouse missed it, there's no reason why you have to miss out on God's Word on Sunday!





how his parents sought to give him the very best in life. His father was modestly well off and saved to give him an education so he could travel abroad and study.

His mother a believer prayed for him regularly and sought to see him saved, but had higher ambitions for him in life. So much so that when he was falling into a godless lifestyle at 16, what he called *'the age at which frenzy gripped me and I surrendered myself to lust ... My family made no effort to save me from my fall ... their only concern was that I should learn how to make a good speech and how to persuade others by my words'* i.e. to excel rather in his course of studies. His mother though a believer instead of actively intervening and promoting godliness in his life by marriage, Augustine tells us, *'was afraid that the bonds of marriage might be a hindrance to my hopes for the future – rather than the life to come, which she confessed in you, but instead in my hopes of success at my*

studies.' Augustine continued to live this way until he was 33, a slave to every kind of lust, sexual experiences, power, acceptance, prestige, and academic fame, before God graciously intervened and saved him.

I believe there are some valuable lesson here for Christian parents. The great danger is that we encourage our children to put their hopes in, and treasure everything earthly that we think will give them a successful future, without any thought to their eternity. The greatest gift a parent can give their child is not the opportunities of a private education or money or material possessions, but a God entranced vision of life where Jesus is treasured above everything else in the family and in life. The former without the latter is nothing more than encouraging idolatry in your children with a sporadic dose of 'churchianity' on Sundays to appease the conscience. As parents the Biblical mandate is that we raise children who are totally given over to Jesus, where he is lifted up for them to be seen as the one who is to be their hope and treasure in life.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength ~ Deut.6:4-5

And it'll be seen in the weekly priorities, disciplines and practices you pursue in your family.

We saw a few weeks ago in the sermon from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, that parents are to make God their first love above all in life, especially in their families. You may not realize this but as your children grow up it becomes very obvious to them what you love and treasure and place above all. The decisions you make or don't make, the things you say or don't say, the priorities you have or don't have, the weekly disciplines in your family, the way you use your money, the way you spend your time, the way you pray

or don't pray, the place of the Bible in your family, the way you serve or don't serve, what you encourage them to do or don't do, what you teach or don't teach them – it all reflects and will eventually play out in the lives of your children.

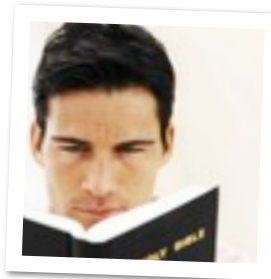
They'll begin to model their lives off you, and what you love and treasure will soon be theirs as well. It's the reason why parents are called to make God their greatest treasure, because it's only when you have a God entranced vision of life, where you are loving God with all your heart, soul and strength, that your children will be raised in a family where God is treasured above all.

Successful Christian parenting begins when parents adopt a God

entranced vision of life, where they are loving God with all their heart, soul and strength, and making Him their hope and treasure above everything else in life.

Successful Christian parenting begins when your children see this in your life and in the way you parent them, always with a view to helping them put their hope in Jesus and treasuring Him above everything else in life ... even over their studies, sport, music and future careers.

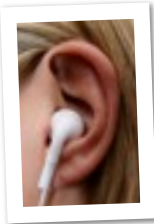
Pastor Eugene Hor
ministry@eugenehor.net



Thriving Tips For The Month!

Keep Eating!

If you or your spouse missed the sermon on Sunday because one of you had to look after the kids, serve your spouse by encouraging them to find time to hear the Sunday message [online](#), and offer to help by looking after the children so that they can do it during the week.



You can't build a God entranced vision of life in your marriage and family if you're starving your soul and not feeding yourself solid food each week.

Set Aside Time With Your Spouse & Work Through These Questions

- Reflect back on the amount of time, money and effort you've have put in towards your child/ children's education, sport, dance lessons etc.

Write it down. Have you ever thought about your child's spiritual education in the same way, with the same effort and discipline? Why or



why not?

- Do you have a prayer journal for each of your children? What are some God honoring goals you should set for your children that you could be praying for? Look at where your children are in terms of their spiritual understanding and values, what areas need prayer and shaping?
- What currently motivates you? Spend time reflecting on what your priorities are and what your children will model

off you if you continue on this road. Are they the sort of qualities that reflect a passion and love for Jesus above all things?

- Spend some time planning for personal goals that will give your children a God entranced vision of life where he is your delight and treasure above all things. In your planning, be prepared to change the way you spend your time and money to reflect this. This might include budgeting for church camps where the bible is faithfully taught to both parents and children, buying Christian books for yourself and the kids, committing to attending church each week etc.



PREPARE FOR SUNDAY CHURCH BY READING, DISCUSSING & PRAYING OVER THE PASSAGE WITH YOUR SPOUSE

FEB 7

Saved For More
Ephesians 2:10

FEB 14

God's New Community
Ephesians 2:11-17

FEB 21

The Church God Is Building
Ephesians 2:18-22

FEB 28

God's Purpose For Community
Ephesians 3:7-13

GPoint Church Retreat OCTOBER 2010

October 23rd - 24th

Mark it in your calendar!