

Compare Notes

I wanted to discuss something that has been on my mind lately. Have you noticed how often we don't know what is going on with our children? Seriously. When was the last time you asked your son or daughter about their day and felt like you had any idea at all about their friends, their likes, dislikes, preferences, challenges, etc.? It becomes so frustrating sometimes that we can be tempted to stop asking. Don't give up! I would submit that we are doing with parenting what we do with so many other things in life. We are trying to do it alone, getting frustrated, and feeling like throwing in the towel! It is so difficult to do things that "should" be so easy!

We want to know what is going on with our kids socially, so we ask them. We ask vague, expansive questions trying to give them latitude to talk about anything they want to. But very often, they don't respond. Neglecting for the moment the development of the brain and science behind the futility of gaining meaningful information from our offspring, let's focus on our exegetical experience of frustration and exhaustion.

Instead of repeating the process of question and silence and frustration, perhaps we could do something different. I suggest we compare notes with each other. That's right, talk about our children with other adults who interact with our children. Let's compare notes with their teachers, Sunday school teachers, coaches, friend's parents, etc. Do you know the names of your children's friends? Do you know what they are doing when they are playing together? Compare notes! Get a bigger picture! This will not only help you understand and know your child better, it will also help you interact with them and give you credibility to speak into their lives. Particularly as they get older. Let's learn to ask specific questions about specific things that our meaningful to our children. When we learn to talk to our kids on their level, we will be able to teach them, train them, and warn them about the things that we know are important for them! We also can model God's unconditional love like Immanuel, did with us! God bless,



John Hunsberger, MA, LIMHP
Associate Pastor - Marriage & Parenting
Lifegate Church