



WHERE SHOULD I SEND MY KIDS TO SCHOOL?

Pastor Mark Driscoll

Real Marriage | March 25th, 2024

Sermon Link: <https://realfaith.com/sermons/where-should-i-send-my-kids-to-school/>

all right Mark and Grace here with the uh Real Marriage podcast uh before we jump in and today's question is going to be how do you know which school to send your kids to so it's kind of summertime and you got to kind of figure out what are we going to do when school rolls around in the fall so before we jump into that we would love it if you would give us a great review five star five star yeah if you want to give us a nasty review just do it in your heart don't do it on the internet uh and especially on Apple they say it would be super helpful and maybe uh some sort of review give them an example of one that was recently posted yeah this one says so helpful I listen to this while I work and my husband does as well and so many episodes have been so Vision changing to us thank you both for being real and trying to help marriages in a world that is a mess it is a mess it is a total dumpster fire meets prison riot in America and around the world right now so if you'd like to leave uh review uh we'd sure appreciate it especially help us out on Apple so we have five kids so we're talking about how to know what decision to make for the education of your child we've got five kids uh two are married um two are now in college and one is finishing up high school so we've been through everything from kindergarten to grad school with the kids and so especially when the kids are little this decision is pretty massive maybe tell them when we uh when we moved to Arizona kind of what a crisis this was for us yeah we had elementary middle school high school and college when we moved here yeah we we moved here not knowing anybody not knowing where we would live where we would work not knowing where the kids would go to school and it was a mess yeah I did a lot of research but it's just hard to know until you're there um and schools here fill up quickly and so if you're in a state where your good schools are filling up um you want to get on this because often times you need to register in February for your kids but um basically we uh I sat down and prayed and started doing research and the options you know are that you can do private school if you can afford it here we have tax help they supplement and you can yeah there's a lot more school choice here there's what are the equivalent of private Charter Schools yep for those of you that don't know as well in Arizona you can take the first I think it's \$2,000 of your taxes earmark them toward a nonprofit and you can even do so toward a Christian School to help lower tuition so Arizona is not like a lot of States a lot of states have got heavy Public School uh unions and everything's kind of locked down so your options are uh Public School uh a private Christian School like said if you can afford it a private non-Christian School somewhere like a prep or a vocational school a charter school uh which usually uh may have some tax dollars and it's kind of a hybrid often times between public and private Andor homeschool you can do co-op without and there's a million creative options in the homeschooling environment and what we saw during covid is a lot of parents are not sending their kids back to school we've seen an explosion in homeschooling and so as we were looking what were uh what were some of the driving forces in our conversations about how to make this decision yeah I mean we kind of made a vision statement of what things we wanted to accomplish with school for our kids and whatever decision you make you need to know that you still need to homeschool a bit because you need to be in interacting with your kids about what they're learning even if they're in a private school and and really discussing that part of it so that you are educating your kids as well um with your own principles at home but we we really had to put a vision together of how do we what do we want our kids to learn at school and not learn yeah and uh you you bring it up like it says in Ephesians 6 you know fathers train your children I think in the original Greek it's in the pdaa and that is the whole upbringing and raising of the child and so the the Bible doesn't hold the government accountable for the well-being of your child it holds the parent accountable and in some states uh the government has really tried to overtake parental rights they're indoctrinating children uh if

you are in one of those bright blue places where the sex education starts in kindergarten and it's mandatory and they're celebrating pride month and kids can undergo you know gender transition without notifying their parents I mean we're now in a world where uh education has been weaponized yeah and uh people who can't have children uh they want to brainwash our children and I say that in our day um sex is a religion lgbtqia are denominations and what they now have is evangelists that are trying to convert kids and now that religion uh of sex and gender ideology it's uh gone into children's ministry so we passor a church we have a kids' Ministry well the the perverts in our country have now gone into kids ministry and they've decided that they would start at uh at your local school with the curriculum and so Grace is absolutely right wherever you send your child you have to be actively involved you need to know who their teachers are you need to see what the curriculum is you need to know uh what the rules of conduct are and you know and then you need to be praying with them discipling them at home having them in a good church Community uh because is it true honey that even if you send your kids to Christian School doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be Christian absolutely yeah I mean there's been some books and different discussions that have come home as I've asked the kids what they've learned for the day that we would not allow in our own home um through the years and so then we end up dialoguing it because they've already learned some of it in the classroom and so um we end up dialoguing what is true about it what's false about it what's heretical um and so then they learn how to think for themselves and not just what to think so yeah you have to still have to correct things you know no school is perfect yeah and when it comes to the choice so uh the Bible talks about educating a child uh but there's principles and methods and the principle is you know kids need to learn the method is how do you do it and what we would encourage you is don't get legalistic right and legalistic is when you take the principle and you only allow one method and if that's the case the more children you have and the more years you have to educate them the more pain you're going to cause yourself and so you got to make the decision per child per year different kids have different needs and sometimes people come along and be like well public schools are ungodly you should never use a public school and I would say as a general rule I'm not going to argue with that but let's say you've got a a special needs child that really needs needs all the programs certain medical attention or certain physical therapy and and there's a narrow list of places that they can actually be educated if you're a legalist you won't even consider those maybe you should if you say well hey we only always do homeschool like us we had five kids how many of them do you think would have done well in homeschool how many do you think would have not done so well I mean maybe two would have done well in h school and the rest of them probably wouldn't have and that's a whole another topic because you know boys boys need interaction in sports or other group type activities and you can't always provide those in home school yeah and that's where a lot of The Homeschool families will create co-ops and networks and set up you know Specialists and teaching different subjects and so that world is very creative and Y and uh and a lot of people in our church that's the the route that they have gone so you mentioned honey um you know for the couple to get on the same page because this can be a tension point oh absolutely because let's say for example you're kind of legalistic and you're like we only homeschool and Mom's like I'm dying like you know I got a bunch of little kids maybe had a tough pregnancy MH um our house isn't set up for it you know our budget doesn't allow you know the kind to you know get a housekeeper to help Mom out or something and so then mom's like you're putting all the burden on Me on the flip side if you're like well we just got to put them all in private school uh you have a bunch of kids dad could be like man I'm dying because I got to generate you know an incredible amount of additional Revenue to make

ends meat and so it's not just about the educating of the children that decisional of the family is the health of the marriage in the family M and so a lot of people like well we need to do what's best for the kids I'd say you also need to factor in what's best for the whole family and what's best for the marriage and so maybe even explained for them when we first moved to Arizona how uh as we were looking at the options the the schedules for the kids weren't going to line up yeah we couldn't get all the kids into the same school so we were potentially looking at three different schools for four kids um because our fifth was in doing her uh college Years and GAP years and so so we had yeah potentially three different schedules and you know drop offs and pickups and vacations vacations and holidays and we just we looked at each other we're like no even if this is the only option this can't be what we do this would wreck the family Dynamic it would not be healthy for our marriage it would not be healthy for our kids it would be chaotic and so we just kept praying okay Lord we would like to have our kids in one school if at all possible if that's what the Lord wanted and felt like that was yeah and so he did he he actually miraculously opened a door so leave possibility for the Lord to work um he miraculously opened a full completely full weight listed school for our four kids um in a way that we couldn't have done and so yeah we were willing to look at Charter and public and you know Christian but I knew I couldn't homeschool I am not homeschool material and it would not be well for our kids or our marriage or Min are I mean our our oldest daughter runs real faith has got a master's degree teaching and yep she's for sure going to school a I appreciate women that can I just know that that's not me um and so the reality of that for me was part of the decision so within that honey how many uh how many couples Andor individuals put a lot of pressure on a couple like this is how you have to do it CU once people choose some method for their child and it works sometimes they're really enthusiastic for it which can be good uh but sometimes they get legalistic and pushy about it and is there I mean is there pressure on a mom from some of the other moms on how to do it quote unquote the right way absolutely I mean moms already feel the pressure of just being a mom um but yeah I think that's why you need to be willing to go around to the different options and kind of pray through and research each one and determine you know take the ones off the table that absolutely are not a good fit for your family and then pray about the ones that are still on the table and you talked about we set uh kind of our priorities and there's kind of A B C Level priorities the a is like we have to have these and B is we would really really like to have these C is it would be good but we can you know we could Flex either way and so on our list uh you know on the on the a level it was as you heard from a schedule perspective we can't have three different pickup drop off holiday vacation that just not going to work on the a level as well we were not going to send our children to a secular public school we wouldn't do it for us that was an a level like one way or another the Bible prayer Jesus the holy spirit is going to be involved in the day-to-day to new your tail burn the burn theil truth in Hell truth in [Music] I do not know the man [Music] I both went to Public School uh it wasn't awesome and also wasn't very safe it wasn't very safe and it it hasn't gotten better since we were there and and so for us an A- Lev priority as well was uh you know marriage family life and Ministry and you you didn't want a homeschool you didn't feel like you were equipped to homeschool and if I put that on you it would have cratered our marriage because it would have taken 100% between homeschooling and Ministry there would have been nothing left because as a Ministry and you got to factor this in too like uh do one of you travel for work are you gone a lot um that may mean homeschooling is a lot better because it's flexible or it may be really painful because you got so many little kids that without some help and a break you know and this is where the decision changes per child per year different kids are different and every year the marriage and the family's got a different

set of Dynamics yep you may have a kid that gets you know diagnosed with some sort of learning disability and you're like they need a special tutor they need a special program dad loses his job now we can't afford the private school mom has an illness or an injury she was homeschooling but now she's bedridden I mean what we're wanting to give you is just a lot of Grace flexibility and freedom well in some families they'll send you know the oldest child to private school and then homeschool the other younger kids or you know they do different Dynamics within the family whatever works per kid because sometimes kids are you know struggle with the whole school Dynamic and need more time to adjust and adapt to that and so sometimes they need to be at home for a little bit to kind of grow and mature and then they can be in a bigger environment yeah and when you're dealing with individual children too as they get a little bit older sometimes certain kids really slot into specialized education some kids you're like they need to go into a stem program yep because they're just whizbang smart kid and in in science engineering technology and whatever else it is I'm not smart enough to know what stem means uh some of your kids are going to be you know incredible athletes and sports is not the most important thing but it's like they're an incredible athlete and sports is a big part of their life and that's we have equestrian school here yeah there's equestrian school here Aviation schools I mean really determining what your kids are gifted in and maybe focused on and want to do in their future there's all there's a lot of options out there so it really does take a ton of research and prayer and coming together and and really praying even with your child and saying you know what are your gifts and abilities and how do we want to help grow those in a positive way and so our encouragement too would be every year you make the decision and every child is different and hold it all in an open hand and if it's not working make a pivot like uh and when it comes to education like you know kids are going to school and then they're they're home on the computer and you know statistically what we what we knew going in if you're a parent and what we know coming out is uh putting a little boy in front of a screen is not going to result in an education uh it will result in an incredible series of video game competitions and uh yeah maybe a fantasy football league but he's he's not going to learn anything he's not going to do anything and so you know a lot of parents I think were forced in the more recent years to number one they're more aware of what their kids are getting taught because if let's say you're doing remote learning now the kids aren't at school the the laptop is open on the dining room table and you're hearing the lecture now you know what's going on that's right in addition um I think think it gave parents permission to re-envision what education could look like because people got out of the normal flow and that could be a really great thing uh I think remote I think just totally online learning for most kids is a proven disaster and so whatever you do they're going to need social you know interaction and relationships and all of that but we would say hold it in an open hand and you may pick a school and it may work great for one kid and for another kid you're like they're getting bullied there's a whole series of issues absolutely they don't have any friends or the Mean Girls are just making their life painful uh there's even even if you pick the right School teachers change administrators change curriculum changes kids change especially right now curriculum changes absolutely and so you know education even if you picked a school it may not be the same school four years later may it may not be the same school for months later yeah educate yourself about where you're educating your children anything else that you would give them as we wrap up just to think and pray about and consider um I mean I I think that you should again allow your child to have depending on their age but allow them to have a voice into it so that they know that you're going to continue to interact about their education as they go so that they will talk to you about what they're learning and not just sending them off and then not saying

anything after that and so I think it needs to be an open dialogue you ultimately make that choice you make that vote but think helping them have a voice in it so that they know you care and you care about what they're learning it's a big deal for a child to know that so when it comes to apparently we talk a lot about a view of voice and a vote and what do you give the kids a view of like guys here's what we're doing do you give them a voice hey you know we want you to speak into this do you give them a vote they get to help make the decision or make the decision for themselves when it came to education we gave them a view into all the options and then we gave each of the kids a very strong voice and then we voted but I remember um we took uh one of our sons who was going to head into high school to a very we we went and toured and visited a lot of schools and we let the kids go with us and and just kind of looked around and it was it was a very you know high ranking very large high school he walked on campus he's like I will not go to a high school this large I'd rather be in a medium-sized school you know maybe four or five 600 kids in the high school I don't want 5 6,000 kids in the high school he's like I don't want to go to a big school okay we want to hear that that yeah um our kids push back and they're all like I I want to we want to go to a Christian School MH uh we want to have Bible prayer worship um that's very important to us like okay our oldest daughter when she decided to go to college uh she went to Arizona State and then she got her Masters in the Barrett honors program completely secular and she's an evangelist and an apologist and so she's arguing in every class and she's at the prayer tent she's leading Bible studies so her faith is very strong and she goes there like I'm going to go this I'm a missionary going to a bunch of lost people right but if you have a kid who's very weak and wavering in their faith and they're not strong that could crater them absolutely and so again it's per kid per year and uh and so with the kids as well giving them a voice the boys articulate they're like hey we love playing baseball we want to have a school that has a good team we want to compete that's how we make our friends that's kind of our social that you know that's where we learn to obey rules and submit to Authority and so you know our boys have been on some really good like state championship run baseball teams with all their buddies who are Christians and if there's a great school that doesn't have that you can do Club teams so again there's so many different ways yeah you got to figure be open and do your research and pray but how important is it that the couple just come to a full even at some point they need to come to a decision but how important is it that the couple owns the decision crucial yeah I mean again it's okay if it's the wrong decision or or a decision that only lasts for a year but you got to own that decision and then follow through with it so any decision you make as a couple you've got to own it together and it can't be oh I hate my school yeah your mom made you go you can't you got to own it together uh it can't be you know hey I want to drop out well you know your dad's you know yeah demanding it you you need to own the decision together yeah and once the decision is made you you need to present a unified front to the kids okay okay you want to pray for them sure dear Lord thank you um that you do have options for us and that you don't just have restrictions but Lord I just pray that these parents would have wisdom that they would come to you for wisdom and that they would be unified in this decision and that the kids would be able to be in that process with them pray that you would open the possibilities for them where they would like to be and Lord just help them to be creative with the option um but to be able to do their research and know exactly from you where they want where they need to have their kids in Jesus name amen