

Application Guide

CREATING VISION FOR PARENTING WITH SANDRA STANLEY



BOTTOM LINE:

There are a lot of parallels to parenting and leadership, specifically when it comes to wanting to get it right, and defining your “it” is the key to your success.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- I. Whether you’re a parent or not, there are a lot of parallels to parenting and leadership, especially when it comes to wanting to get it right. Defining your “it” is essentially your vision.
 - A. Vision helps people end up somewhere on purpose.
 - B. Vision is a predecision, and it will determine your direction.
- II. Currently, you are parenting your children in a direction.
 - A. What is guiding your parenting? What are you parenting toward?
 - B. If you don’t determine your “it,” life will determine it for you.
 - C. In two-parent homes, there are often two different wins in mind. As a result, parents parent at cross purposes without realizing it. The result is a tension parents can’t explain, but children always sense.
- III. Direction, not intention, ultimately determines destination.
 - A. When your approach isn’t defined by a predetermined win, you will drift from where you want to be.
 - B. Things that influence habits and approach when there is no predetermined win include circumstances, culture, the reactions of your children, and the expectations of others.
- IV. The Stanley family has an “it” they are convinced makes all the difference.
 - A. “We wanted kids who enjoy being with us and with each other when they no longer have to be.”
— Sandra and Andy Stanley
 - B. Their “it”—predetermined win—causes them to parent with the relationship in mind.
- V. Once you define the goal you intend to parent toward, it should inform every aspect of parenting: the tone set, the words chosen, the schedule adopted, and even the approach you take to discipline.
 - A. Example: The Stanley’s “It”
 1. All rules were tied to relationship building and relationship protecting.
 2. All discipline was designed around relationship restoration rather than punishment.
 - B. Sometimes it takes creativity to design around your “it”... But it’s always worth it.
- VI. The key to success: Determine your “it”—your vision—early. Set goals. Let every decision you make be informed by your “it” as you move toward your vision.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR TEAM DISCUSSION

1. What parallels do you see between parenting and leadership?
2. In what ways have you witnessed outside factors impact the direction of your team?
3. What things have you experienced in leadership that were done well that you want to replicate?
What predetermined win would you need to put in place to accomplish this?

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4. What things have you experienced in leadership that were done poorly that you want to avoid?
What predetermined win would you need to put in place to accomplish this?
5. Determine the “it” for your team. How do you need to adjust tone, language, values, and daily tasks to align with your “it”?

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RESOURCES MENTIONED:

- [Parenting: Getting It Right](#) by Andy and Sandra Stanley
- [Parenting Bible Study Guide plus Streaming Video: Getting It Right](#) by Andy and Sandra Stanley
- [Session 1](#) from *Parenting Bible Study Guide plus Streaming Video: Getting It Right*