Dear Parents,

Teacups are beautiful, yet they’re very fragile and must be handled with extreme care. Today, university professors call our children just that, teacups. They see college students as very fragile because of overprotection. And while teacups are aesthetically pleasing, they are rarely used and of little value to us on a day to day basis.

As parents it’s hard to watch our children fail, so often we swoop in to make sure they don’t. In the process we create children that don’t know how to fail well. Without our help, they’ll move out and go to college still struggling with failing well. They will become the teacup that the professor is speaking about! This month we want to process how we can STOP being our child’s superhero, and instead, allow them to develop the courage and problem solving skills to work through any issue life hands them. Check out the video link to see a glimpse into WHY we need to allow our children to fail.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/123492185/b35e13831e>

Current culture says to our children, “You can be anything you want to be”. The truth is they can TRY to be anything that they want, but they will fail. A lot. Our children, just like us, have been uniquely designed and created for purpose. One of the biggest ideas that will help us discover that purpose is working through failure. We allow our children to fail when we STOP overparenting. Overparenting is actually a word, and we’ve created it. Here’s the definition: “*Excessively involved in the day to day life of the children, typically in the desire to shield them from difficult situations and help them succeed*.” Of course, we want our children to succeed!!

A researcher named La Ferle says this of overparenting, “*We take personally the things that happen to our kids, and if our kids succeed, we are successful parents. If they fail, it’s a bad reflection on us. If we can get over that, then that’s good. Sometimes we need to step back and not use our kids as trophies.*” Ouch! Hard to hear, but necessary. The Bible is clear that we are NOT enough, and it’s a good thing. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 says, “*But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong*.”

We cannot do everything on our own. And neither can our kids. And that’s okay. We have a Big God who can handle it all. We need to lean into Him and allow Him to lead us. Sometimes we’ll fail. Sometimes we’ll succeed. Either way, as long as we are focused on God and submitting to Him, it’s all good. So let’s ban together, committing to STOP overparenting, allow our children to fail, learn from those failures, and find that true strength comes from God in the midst.

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah