

Sessions from Jonathan Brush

The Skills You Need to Live Life Well

Why do we think that the best way to launch children into adulthood is to tell them that, by the age of 18, they must know exactly what they want to do for their lifelong career – so they can then get the exact training and/or education they need to do that job? Has that worked for you or for most of the people you know? Does that strategy make sense in a world where technology constantly disrupts...everything? This session will teach you about the Personal Triangle: A flexible and easy to understand framework to help you and your child find and focus on the critical transferable skills you need to not just get a career, but to live life well.

How to Really Do Work You Love

“Follow your passion and you will never work another day in your life” and “You need to find your purpose and the one thing you were called to do and life will then be awesome” are absolutely garbage advice. Seriously. There is a way to find and do work that you love, but you won’t find it at the end of the passion-purpose rainbow that only a lucky few can find. The good news is that finding and doing work you love is available to anyone that understands a few basic principles and is willing to put in the time and work to get there. Interested? Let me show you how.

The Formula for Changing the World that Actually Works

“You’re the leaders of today and you can change the world!” says every cool youth leader, slick motivational speaker, and every abundantly blessed success anomaly on stage. Directly or indirectly, the formula is always the same: Take all of your excitement and energy and work like crazy and become rich, famous, and powerful and make a difference! There is one catch. It’s really, really hard to become rich, famous, and powerful. Good thing that’s not really a great way to change the world. To really change the world requires something both easier and harder. Easier, because anyone can do it. Harder, because it takes commitment and endurance. God put you in this time and place for these challenges on purpose. Will you respond and do something that makes a difference?

Rebuilding Western Civilization: A Call to a Bigger Vision

What if homeschooling and the homeschool movement was about more than education, but was the training corps for the special forces whose mission is to take and hold the cultural anchors of our civilization? What if your local church was more than a building to worship in once a week, but was the headquarters for an army whose mission was to rebuild a civilization? What if we understood that this army doesn’t build walls and fortifications to keep the barbarians out, but builds homes and communities that lower the bridge, open the gates, and invites those outside in, to a better world? This session will challenge you to think big, think long, and join the mission.

The Success Crisis: Why Misunderstanding Success is Destroying our Young Adults

Everyone loves to beat on the current young generation for their lack of work ethic and say they will never be “successful.” This is odd when you consider that the entire formal education system

and culture is designed to and optimized to make people successful. What if learning to thrive – defined as owning your purpose, serving others through healthy relationships, and living with resilience – was far more important than becoming successful, defined as being rich, famous, and/or powerful? What if becoming successful actually runs directly against what is necessary to thrive? What if the happiness of success comes at the cost of the joy of thriving? What would we need to understand and do to equip our children to thrive instead of equipping them to be successful?

A New Economy

The world is changing in some very surprising ways and it's changing fast. The skills, training, and preparation needed to find work and create value in this new economy is very different from what was required before. And that's a very good thing. For those who are willing to think differently and train differently there are amazing opportunities over the very near horizon.

Principles Based Parenting: You Don't Need a Formula, You Need a Foundation

Ever notice that everyone has a very specific opinion about how you should, or shouldn't raise your children? Have you noticed that the stronger the certainty of that opinion the more likely it is to contradict everyone else's opinions? There's no magic formula to parenting, and you should be very cautious listening to anyone who tells you there is one. There's no magic formula, but there are principles, things that are true no matter what. If you understand those principles then, since we are made in the image of an infinitely creative God, there are an infinite amount of ways you can teach your children those principles, reflecting your unique skills and your unique family. This session will give you the foundation to build your own parenting plan, one that will allow you to adjust the formula as much as necessary.

What You Really Need to Know: What a Student Should Learn Before They Launch

Strip away everything else and, at the end of the day, your goal is to make sure your child progresses from sleeping on your couch to being an adult sleeping on their own couch. What does a student really need to learn between the ages of sixteen and twenty two to be ready for "real life"? Everyone focuses on academics, but you need more than academic ability to be fully equipped for the challenges and responsibilities of adulthood. This session is based on over twenty years of watching young adults launch and carefully observing what works and what doesn't. This is what you really need to know.

A.D.U.L.T. SERIES

Ask: The Critical Importance of Questions and Why Learning to Ask Good Questions is Far More Important than Knowing Answers

Technology has fundamentally changed education and almost every educational institution on the planet hasn't caught up yet. There is a foundational shift from an answers based paradigm that has dominated education since universities were invented to a questions based paradigm. Simply stated, if you are still teaching in an answers based paradigm you are missing a key

opportunity to prepare your student for the world that they will live and work in. This session is all about teaching you what a questions based paradigm is, why it's important, and how to teach it.

Do: The Importance of Taking Action and Doing Real Things

In a bygone time plans were paramount, caution was king, and deciding was marked by deliberation. In that old world knowledge trumped experience. We don't live in that world anymore. In our world iteration is better than planning, action holds the throne, and deciding is marked by doing. In our world knowledge is still necessary, but knowledge without experience holds little value. This session will teach you how to adapt to this new world and use project based education to train students to take action for the real world.

Understand: The Framework You Need to Make Sense of the World and Your Place in It

Despite a popular belief to the contrary the world and culture does not work on facts, it runs on story. Stories are what drive cultural and social change, inspire action, give meaning, and educate the next generation. Western Civilization in particular is driven by the stories in the Bible. Understanding story, and especially the Biblical story, is essential to understand the world you live in, and your part in the grand story that is our reality. The session will help you understand story, Biblical story, and how that understanding will have an immediate practical impact on your life.

Live: How to Really Change the World and Make Sure Your Life has Meaning

You are a human being, not a human doing. Culture and society will tell you that changing the world and making a difference with your life will require you to become rich, famous, and/or powerful. Unfortunately, it's extremely difficult to become rich, famous, and powerful. Fortunately, that's not the way you change the world and make a difference. Christianity has a different plan for world changers, a plan that anyone can follow, that requires community, and that you can start today. This session will teach you how you really change the world and find meaning. Caution: If you attend this session you will have to start today!

Thrive: Redemption, Hope, and Joy for Today and the Future

A great education cannot be limited to just getting a good job and paying the bills. A great education should teach you how the world works and prepare you to live. How do we equip our students to live in a world full of hardships, challenges, and pain? The key lies with hope. In this session, learn how to practically educate yourself and your family to live for the glory of God in light of reality and eternity.

Other Topics of Interest

- **Live Deliberately:** How to understand how the experiences of your past and your vision of the future determine how you live now. In the session I talk about understanding your past through the lens of faith (a belief that God can use and/or restore all that has happened to you) and seeing your future through the lens of hope (the belief that what lies ahead is always better than what came before for those who follow Christ). How you

understand your past and future then determines how you are able to live with both wisdom and excitement in the present.

- **Finding Work You Love Series.**
 - Skill: How to Create Autonomy in Your Work and Why That is Important
 - Experience: How to Do Important Work That Matters
 - Value: How to Create Capital, and Why Value and Capital are Direct Reflections of Being Made in the Image of God
 - Relationships: How Time and Task Management Only Makes Sense in the Context of Relationships
 - Attitude of Mastery: The Key Skill for Professional Advancement
 - The Best Strategies for Finding Work
 - The Best Tactics for Finding Work
- **Growing Up Homeschooled: A Look Back Over 40 Years of Being Outside the Educational Mainstream**
- **Discipline = Freedom, but Only After Grace:** Practicing spiritual disciplines and striving for holiness are an essential, but oft neglected, part of the Christian life. Practicing spiritual disciplines can be life changing, but they can only be properly understood if they are positioned correctly, which is after an understanding of grace. Note: This session was written as a reaction to our own students' need to understand and practice discipline in their life, but we needed to address their tendency to get discipline, endurance, and striving confused with perfectionism, legalism, and despair.
- **The Imago Dei:** CS Lewis states that you "...have never met a mere mortal." All humans are made in the image of God. Understanding this core, foundational Truth will change every one of your relationships and every aspect of the way you live.
- **Coram Deo:** Life in the Presence of God. All of us live in the presence of God every day. Do we know that? Do we understand what that means? If we do, it changes everything.