27. SUBJECT: Communication 101: Ask Open-Ended Questions

Ever asked your child: “Did you have a good day?”

The inevitable answer (at least in my home!) is either “yes” or “no”—and there’s no elaboration, no details given. Well, this can be a conversation killer right away!

How can we get our kids to open up to us about their days, their lives, their fears, their successes?

Here’s today’s *Tip for Modern Parents*:

**Asking open-ended questions is a great way to foster communication with our children.**

Good open-ended questions often start with how, what, and why:

* How did you feel when that happened?
* What do you plan to say to your friend?
* Why do you think he acted that way?

These types of questions tend to prompt the hearer to respond with more than just a one-syllable answer.

And if we listen carefully to our children as they talk, we might just be handed the next question we need to ask:

* How can I help you with your anger?
* What is your plan if she gets upset?
* Why should we not act that way?

Asking good questions is an art form—but it’s one that every one of us can learn. Try it out today!

Onward to better parenting,

ADD NAME