



Stories & Testimonials



CF Certified Parent Coach and CF founders with staff from a startup Philippine adoption agency.

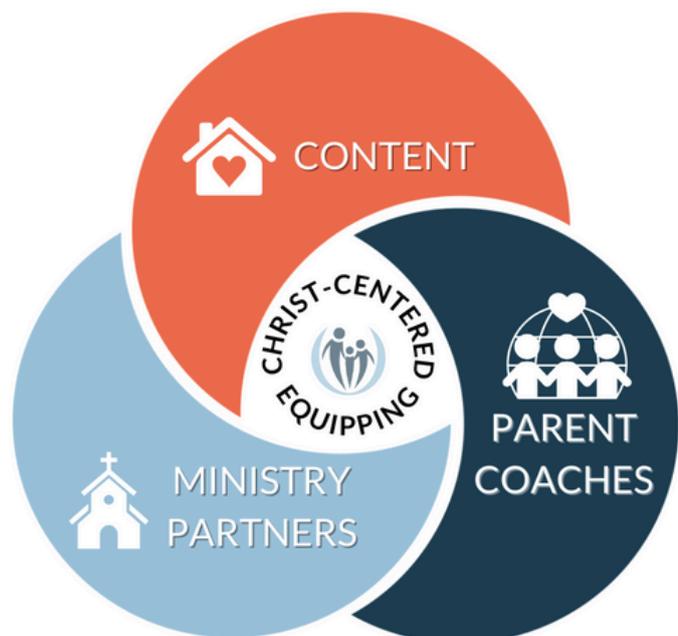
“

Connected Families has taught me to receive God's grace in daily challenges! That is HUGE, but CF also equipped me to avoid legalism or permissiveness as I disciple my children in the gospel and guide them toward wisdom and God's calling.

Annie
Mom of 4

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Any names in quotes included in this booklet have been changed for privacy.

4,650+ families
have received
personalized
coaching

“

When I learned a lot about ‘positive parenting’ I got stuck in ‘permissive parenting’ which was making me feel completely out of control. One on one coaching was exactly what I needed to help me get unstuck!”

Julia

Coaching

*“Since our first coaching session, we have had dedicated connection time every day. **I have seen a 75-80% decrease in my son's daily aggression toward me, and I now have hope!**”*

Kristen

Single mom of a 7-year-old with autism

*“I personally felt a shift after the second coaching session when I began to feel less emotionally tied to and controlled by the boys' behavior. There was freedom there, and **I thought to myself, this stuff really works, it was amazing!**”*

Katrina, Mom of four in Washington

*“Growing up in households that were abusive and neglectful, we had no good model for parenting. But coaching is helping our three boys build identity as confident problem-solvers rather than seeing themselves as helpless victims of their wild (or even aggressive) whims. **This massive shift in our family that we have longed for, and prayed for... it's here!**”*

“Brooklyn” & “Matt”

Parents of three boys



10
online courses

over 20,000
enrollments

“

We typically struggle to get people engaged in summer classes, but the success of our summer CF courses have been astounding! It has given us clear feedback that **this content is AWESOME, PRACTICAL and helps families at all different stages of life.**

Justin Vavra
Executive Pastor
Mercy Hill Church

Online Courses



*“Initially, when I heard content from the Discipline that Connects course, I thought, **“Whatever happened to ‘obey right away, all the way, with a happy heart... or you get a spanking!’** But I knew that wasn’t working in our family! After the course, we got parent coaching and cried through every session. The Foundation principle of receiving God’s love for me was profound, and I realized no one had made me feel ‘called and capable’ when I was young. **My heart and my whole framework of life has changed!**”*

Matt

Counseling pastor in North Carolina, now enrolled in Parent Coach Certification program

“I absolutely loved the course. It was like drinking from a fountain of life each week.”

Mike

Dad of three, Washington

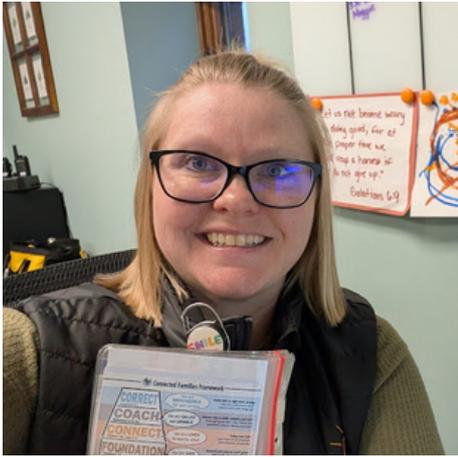
SENSITIVE & INTENSE KIDS

*“This Sensitive and Intense Kids course is holistic and so comprehensive, and gave me so many tools. **I felt so much more hope and peace in my home. It is the Rolls-Royce of Christian parenting resources!**”*

Amanda Erickson

Best-selling author of The Flourishing Family
Mom of a child with autism





“

“This partnership has been a game changer for Kiddie Prep School. It's an amazing thing to implement the framework in the classroom and have it integrated at home as well. We have seen some big changes in students, and we love to recommend Connected Families to our families.”

Madi
Director of Kiddie Prep School
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Partnerships

“Connected Families and the Framework is woven into the culture of the church. It's nice to have that common language...you hear 'do overs' at church, you see people doing 'slow, low and listen.' It's not like we took this 8 week course and had a brief time of parent connection. It's really been the first step in a rhythm!”

Andrew

Parent at Mercy Hill Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota

“The Asbury Kids mission statement prioritizes partnering with parents. For over 15 years, I had been praying for the right resource to equip parents in raising their children in the faith. When I first heard about Connected Families, I knew this was it!

We also have struggled with discipline in our classrooms. Using the framework to guide us is changing the culture of our ministry into the safe and loving environment that we wanted to offer every child.”

Lori Menekeim

Children's Ministry Director at Asbury Church
Madison, Alabama

“I get emotional thinking about how God is using Connected Families in our church. A dad texted to say, “Thank you for bringing us this program. I no longer feel alone in my parenting struggles.” A mom shared her epiphany about the importance of truly understanding her kids. I am so thankful our church invested in Connected Families - it is already bearing fruit in our community.”

Amanda Kan

North Point Christian Church
Tallahassee, Florida

International Growth



CF Certified Parent Coaches, Hong Kong

"In Hong Kong, the fast-paced lifestyle often leaves parents disconnected from their children, despite their good intentions. There is hunger for parenting resources and great opportunity for Connected Families to provide Biblical, transformational change in families across this world city."

Kristen Wong (center in photo)
CF Certified Parent Coach, MBA in International Business.



Online course class in Vietnam

"Just going through the first session brought us many breakthroughs regarding our parenting style and reflecting on our parents' perspective. ...many deep stories and encouragement were shared with laughter and tears."

Luke & Ruth

"350 parents have studied the two Connected Families books, and over 500 parents have attended Discipline That Connects seminars. We have just begun to offer the DTC online course and have plans to translate a few other courses as well. So many transformed families!"

Hsin-Hsin

CF Certified Parent Coach, in a closed Asian country

“

*"Because of the *How to Grow a Connected Family* book study, I shared the gospel with my college friend. She thought this was just what she needs, and now she comes to my church."*

Xue



One of the first CF workshops in China

CF Certified Parent Coaches Around the World



"It was a privilege to do workshops in both English and Spanish for a Christian school staff and parents in the Dominican Republic. I am also excited to be adding to our Spanish podcasts and blog posts, along with Esther, a parent coach serving in Guatemala."

Luisa, CF Certified Parent Coach

*"We are seeing more and more opportunities for coaching and speaking in the UK, and **it's been particularly exciting to see the Lord use Connected Families resources to reach unchurched parents!**"*

Ruth, CF Certified Parent Coach, Malvern, England

*"I have such joy that God has given me influence with parents in the eastern part of Ethiopia using the Connected Families Framework. **Many in the audience of 450 parents and ministry leaders stated, "I will say sorry to my kids..."**"*

Getu, CF Certified Parent Coach in Training, Ethiopia

*"Translation of the Discipline that Connects online course is nearly complete, and **seven other parent coaches are trained or in training to bring God's grace and truth to Finnish parents!**"*

Mari, CF Certified Parent Coach in Finland



“

It's been a great week here with Jim and Lynne. The principles they have presented are so valuable – I love this fresh look at parenting and relating to our kids that is so biblical. It's been phenomenal!

Ivan Veldhuizen

Vice President of International Ministries for Converge

Global Workers

“75 missionary families from many different countries have taken part in Connected Families' online courses, coaching, or workshops I've offered, from every continent except Antarctica! I'm so grateful for the scholarships that made it possible for everyone to take part.”

Elizabeth

CF CPC and missionary in SE Asia

*“We were lost and at the end of our rope, having tried different best-selling books and resources. Connected Families resources —especially the online course— changed everything! **CF has given us a lifeline of hope and practical tools that set us back on course and kept us on the mission field.**”*

Max & Sally

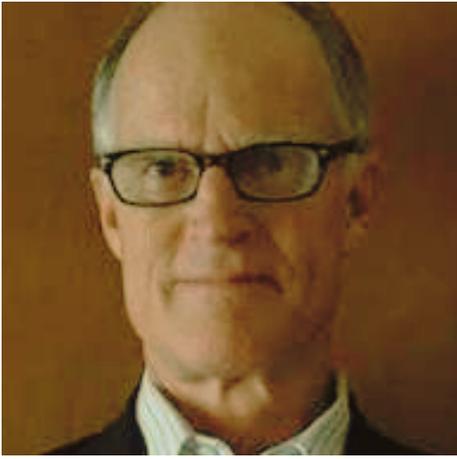
East Asia missionaries and parents of four kids

“After watching Jim and Lynne's workshop at our Converge conference and reviewing your resources, I would love all our missionary parents to have access to this teaching, and I'd also love to become a part of CF's Certified Parent Coach training program.”



Karina Nelson,

Member Care Specialist - TCK's.



“

I have never read anything by anyone that so thoughtfully melds solid scriptural doctrine with sound psychological principles. This is a resource of pure parenting gold.

Warren Watson,
Ordained pastor, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Founder and Director of a faith-based counseling center.

Mental Health

Anxiety

Before: “Becca” and her daughter “Allie” were both diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Many school mornings started with panic, tears, and meltdowns, sometimes taking 45 minutes. Allie often came home from school emotionally shutdown. *“We tried so many things, but nothing seemed to really help her, and we were all overwhelmed. For several years we had to pull her from public school.”*

Now: Connected Families’ resources equipped Becca to bring safety and love to her daughter’s anxiety. Allie is now confident in God’s presence with her. She’s back in public school and her mornings are organized, peaceful, and playful! After school, she enjoys sharing about her day. *“Where I had felt frustrated and desperate, now I feel capable and full of hope for my precious daughter! Her anxiety disorder is medically in remission!”*

Depression

Before: “Our sensitive, compliant son was really struggling and we had no idea. It all came to a head in 9th grade when he admitted to self harm, sneaking marijuana, and multiple suicide attempts. ‘Ezra’ spent 12 weeks in inpatient facilities. We had been through Connected Families coaching and I was a certified parent coach but we felt like failures, our whole family felt broken.”

Now: “During this time, the Lord reminded us to rest in our ‘Foundation’ of safety and love with Him, and communicate that to our son. As he improved with the correct medication, we gradually worked up the Framework, adding baby steps in the areas of Coaching and Correction. **Today, our son is a thriving senior in high school who helps peers walking through similar struggles. If it were not for the Framework, I’m not sure how our story would have ended. But we have come through it with a beautiful, deepening relationship with our son.”**

ADHD, ODD, aggressive/explosive behavior

Before: “Jason” and “Aiden” clashed in frequent angry conflicts. Jason tried to control Aiden’s explosive behavior to protect the family, but for everyone’s safety, at age 12 Aiden was placed at a boy’s ranch. 15 months later, he returned home, but Jason and Jan watched Aiden’s gains slip away, and they knew *they* needed to change.

Now: Finding Connected Families was a game-changer. Jan entered the parent coach certification program, and Jason learned along with her. Peace and connection began to grow in their family!

Aiden is now in high school and wrote an assignment about his heroes. First in the lineup was his dad! Relationships restored, a young man growing in God’s grace and love.





“

I was so desperate in parenting my sensitive, intense child, that I cried through much of my first coaching session. Coaching changed our lives and family forever!!

Amy and Andrew

Sensitive Intense Kids

“The wonderful parenting model that CF equipped us with guided us through years of uncertainty, until our son was diagnosed with autism at age 10. You helped us appreciate our unique child from the very beginning, despite his challenges. We are forever grateful for the grace-filled parenting journey we found with Connected Families.”

“Diane,” mother of a 10-year-old with autism

“Spicy kids are the best!”



*“Spicy kids are the best. They make us better humans if we let them, if we refuse to crush their God-given spirit. **The Framework is on repeat in my head every day.** **The “Peace Process” is used often,** and the girls are quite independent with it at times. You guys have changed our lives. There aren’t words for the gratitude I feel! I hope parents hear our story and realize they can have healthy, positive relationships with their spicy kids.”*

Jen, mom of two



“

“As a social worker supporting foster and adoptive parents for over 30 years, the Connected Families Framework has been the most effective and impactful resource I have found! The strong biblical principles of relationship paired with credible evidence-based science has brought healing to countless, despairing families.”

Lynn Beckett

LBSW, Manager of Parent Coaching Services (retired) Lifeline Children's Services, Inc.

Adoptive Families

*“There is so much need in the Philippines for training that can equip families to receive children who have experienced relational trauma... **The Connected Families Framework provides the structure and heartset needed to equip adoptive families with Godly parenting strategies.**”*

Chrina Cuna Henson

Founding and Executive Director of Generations Home, Philippines (See photo on cover)



“CF brings
SO MUCH
HOPE!”

*“Connected Families resources and courses brought encouragement, an action plan, and ideas to last a lifetime! The content is clear, detailed, and full of examples, explanations, and hope. **SO MUCH HOPE!**”*

Luisa and Jarrett Adoptive parents of 3



Connected Families
connectedfamilies.org



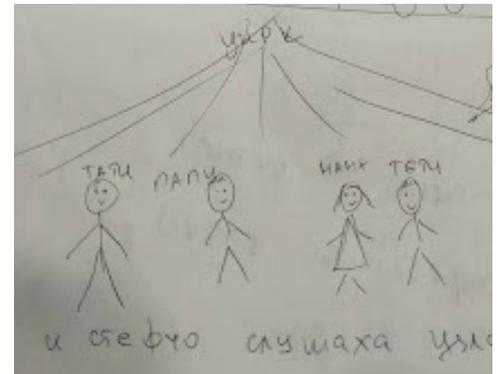
*"We fostered-to-adopt our son with developmental trauma and disabilities. Despite feeling pretty competent with kids, I was in over my head with his big needs and extreme outbursts. **Connected Families resources were a lifesaver for me filled with practical tools, and Gospel-based hope and peace for us as parents!**"*

Brianna
Mom of two

"Our twin 4-year-old boys were out of control and aggressive, and other parents wanted them expelled from kindergarten! A connection led to a CF Certified Parent Coach in America who coached me and helped me through the Sensitive, Intense Kids Online Course.

My focus changed from trying to control, to connecting, teaching, and coaching. They have changed so much!** Now we can play games, do activities, and go on vacation. (Previously they would destroy the hotel!) Their teachers are so pleased. **I'm so grateful for the donors who made this possible!!"

Milena
Adoptive mom in Bulgaria



*"I have gotten so much hope and healing through Connected Families, so I want to offer this to other struggling families as well – especially foster and adoptive families we serve through our work in ViaDia in Finland. **The biblical, trauma-informed and scientific approach of Connected Families resources is so powerful that it can change whole communities and be even the seed of revival in Finland.**"*

Elina Rautio
Ed.D., Adoptive mom,
Steering committee member for the Finland ViaDia project, From Trauma to Trust

**“From
broken to
beautiful”**

“

Parenting is eternal, kingdom work. I grew up in something so *broken* but Discipline That Connects is helping me change my family into something so *beautiful*. My children are receiving such a different family, and that is no small thing. That is a huge, glorifying-to-God eternal thing.”

Ami

DTC scholarship recipient

Parents From Trauma

*“I am a lawyer working with trafficking victims in a closed Asian country. Two colleagues who have Freedom Businesses (that provide safe, healing jobs for survivors of sex trafficking) have asked me to provide parent coaching for the women and teens they serve. One business is in India with fairly illiterate women, so there will definitely be some challenges! But **for all of us in Freedom Business and anti-trafficking work, we know how important strong and safe families are!**”*

“Sarah” CF Certified Parent Coach and Lawyer

*“We are loving all your online courses and are on our third group together! Please thank the donors profusely for us! **These mamas have had no upbringing to nurture or attach well. Their own trauma gets in the way. They are growing leaps and bounds, and are so much calmer with their kids. So beautiful to see!**”*

Janice Matthews

Program Supervisor, Union Gospel Mission, Spokane



These two Union Gospel moms show off how diligently they were going through CF's Sibling Conflict course on their own.

*“**Connected Families has been the catalyst for transformation for so many of our client families!** Clients from all levels of ability take hold of the simple yet profound concepts and put them into practice. CF and their resources have empowered our coaches to effectively connect with and guide our clients - regardless of what topic is being discussed!”*

Elisia Kraemer

Parent Education Manager, New Life Family Services

Generations Transformed

A Final Sweet Connected Families Framework Story...

*“Our ADHD son was always moving, smashing and pounding (e.g. broken walls, dented car doors). We yelled and punished to try to maintain some control and manage the destruction. When we went to a Connected Families workshop decades ago, we realized - **Our ‘pyramid’ is upside down! We did a fundamental shift that day.** Our relationship began to heal as we prioritized connecting with our son, and learned to be his coach and guide. God eventually used his “penchant for pounding” as he drummed in several worship bands with his dad!*

In between times of connection and joy, it was often still challenging (will his lungs heal from vaping? will he get a HS diploma at graduation tonight?!) but the CF Framework guided us until he found his footing. Now he’s in school to be a Physician Assistant, is married with a young son, and he is so grateful that we never lost love and faith for his life. We adore him, and are delighted to be his parents!”

Rob and Connie

