



## Real vs. Ideal

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**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:3; John 3:16; Matthew 5:27–28; 19:10; John 1:14, 17

### Introduction

**Graphic:** Title slide for *Parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*[For the next several weeks, I want to talk to parents, grandparents, future parents, aunts, uncles, or anybody who feels the weight and responsibility of equipping an infant, child, teenager, or student for life. Today, and for the next few weeks, I want to talk about parenting.]*

*[When Sandra and I talk to parents, she always reminds them:]*

“The days are **long**, but the years are **short**.”

—Sandra Stanley

*[It's so true. On the front end, you feel like you have plenty of time. You feel like you blink, and they're 10. Soon after, they're graduating from middle school. Then before you know it—they're gone! And you think... Oh no! Are they really ready? Did I tell them everything they needed to know? The answer is no; you didn't. You probably forgot a few essentials, which is understandable because you were busy parenting.]*

*[Like most first-time fathers or mothers, I'll never forget the terror I felt when the nurse closed our car door as she sent Sandra and me home with a baby . . . by ourselves! What were they thinking!? I knew what I was thinking. Surely, you're coming with us? What if we do it wrong? That's when it dawned on me...]*

Just because I **have a parent** doesn't mean I know anything about **being one**.

Just because I **was a kid** doesn't mean I know anything about **raising one**!

*[But the nurse just stood there and waved good-bye with that knowing look on her face. We figured it out, but not on our own. Sandra and I were sponges for good parenting advice, whether it came from books, videos, friends, or even experts.]*

