

Christian Parenting

Week 10

Birth Order

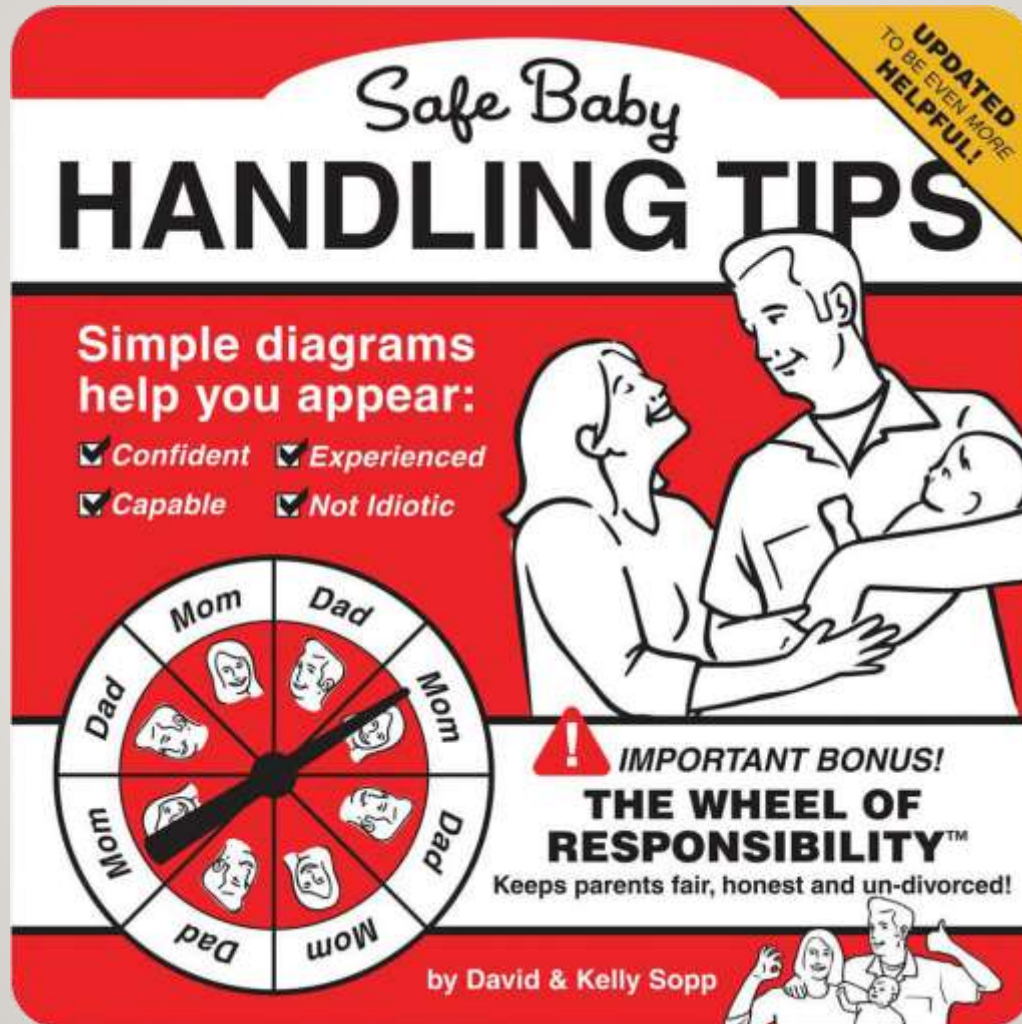


Winter Quarter, 2018-19
Greg (& Vikki) Nordstrom

But as for *you*, continue in what you have learned and have firmly *believed*, knowing from whom you learned it and how *from childhood* you have been acquainted with the *sacred writings*, which are able to make you wise for *salvation* through faith in *Christ Jesus*.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Our last **practical baby advise** from...



Instructions:

Making Baby Smile



Instructions:

Fun Games for Baby



GOOD

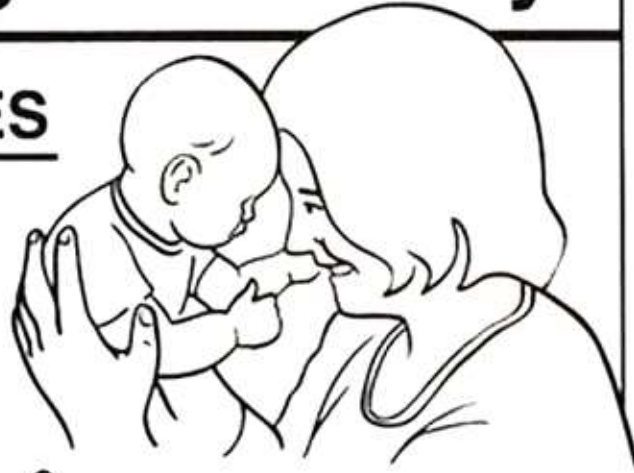
BAD

Instructions:

Bonding with Baby



YES



NO

Instructions:

Calming Baby

GOOD



BAD



Birth order and personality traits

FIRST BORN



MIDDLE BORN



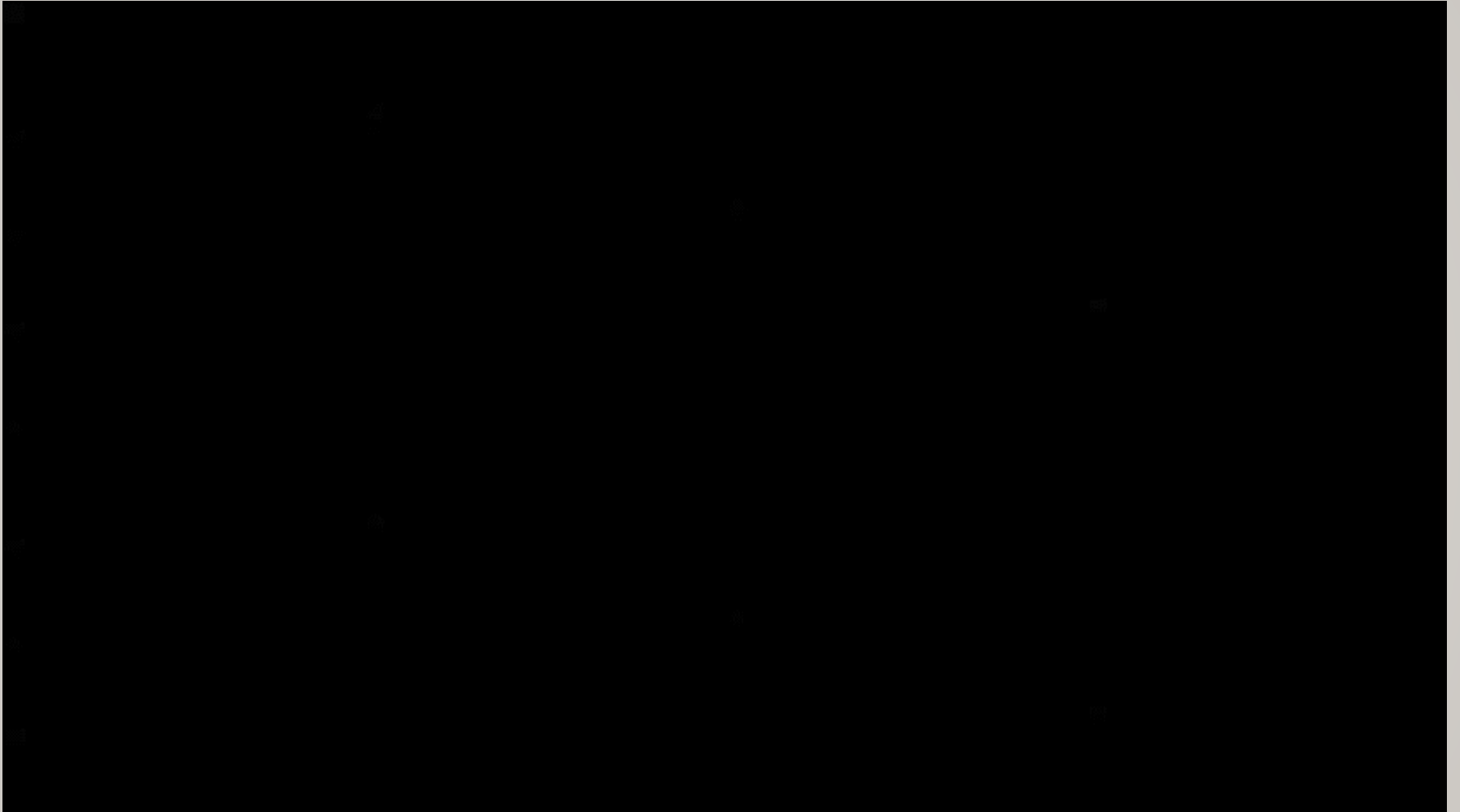
LAST BORN



THE ONLY CHILD



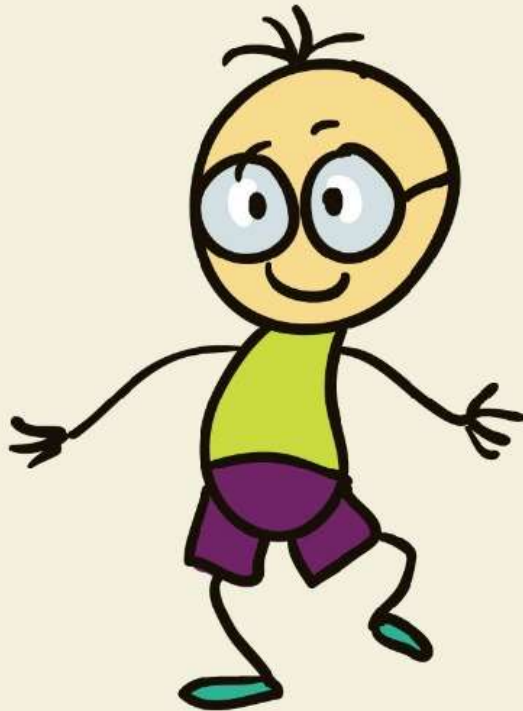
Dr. Leman on birth order



*“When it comes down to it, birth order is a another term for **parental investment**, whether that investment comes in the form of attention, affection, financial support, etc.”*

Catherine Salmon

FIRST BORN



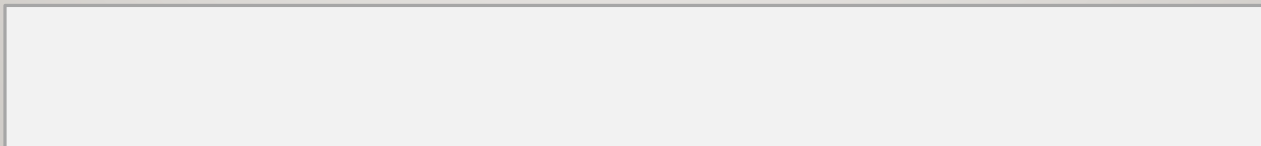
Responsible
Motivated
Conscientious
Controlling
Cautious
Reliable
Perfectionist
Achiever
Leader
Bossy

Biblical firstborns: Cain (Able), Ishmael (Isaac), Esau (Jacob), Reuben, Aaron (Miriam, Moses), maybe Martha (Mary), and, of course, Jesus.

MIDDLE BORN



Often feels left out
Peacemaker
Social
Adaptable
People-pleaser
Can be rebellious
Independent
Go-between



THE MOMENT YOU REALIZE



**YOU'RE NOW
THE MIDDLE CHILD**

LAST BORN



Uncomplicated
Manipulative
Seeks attention
Self-centered
Fun
Social
Charming
Outgoing

Biblical lastborns: Isaac, Moses, Benjamin, Gideon, David

THE ONLY CHILD



Seeks approval
Sensitive
Leader
Confident
Center of attention
Mature for their age
Conscientious
Responsible
Perfectionist

*So how might knowing birth
order traits and characteristics
help you parent your children?*

*And how might knowing birth
order traits and characteristics
help you with your spouse?*

Birth order and marriage



So, how does birth order play out in your marriage?
Let's look at the dynamics of each birth-order matchup...

Firstborn + Firstborn

- ▶ Both are perfectionists with a need for control, so **conflict is inevitable**
- ▶ **Define roles** to reduce tension and increase harmony
- ▶ **Remove** “*You know, you should...*” from your vocabulary
- ▶ Try a simple “*thank you*” instead of “improving” on what your mate says or does
- ▶ **Celebrate** little and big successes... **together!**



Firstborn + Middleborn

- ▶ Middleborns tend to **avoid conflict**, but are **good compromisers**
- ▶ Since firstborns have strong opinions, **discussing** events and feelings is **critical** in your marriage
- ▶ Typical middleborns will say “*everything is fine*” but they **need to be encouraged** to share their real feelings
- ▶ Perceptive middleborns have a lot to offer, including **wonderful problem-solving skills**



Firstborn + Lastborn

- ▶ Firstborns provide **structure, goals,** and **organization** often lacking in lastborns
- ▶ Lastborns raise the “**fun quotient**” for overly serious firstborns
- ▶ Firstborns should let flaws go or gently suggest how to correct them
- ▶ Lastborns, give that firstborn attention and strokes (they need it, even if they appear confident and in control)
- ▶ Focus on serving each other, and always laugh together



Middleborn + Middleborn

- ▶ Neither is too confrontational
- ▶ Both discount their own opinions
- ▶ Each must work hard to make the other feel special
- ▶ Brainstorm fun ways to keep your hearts close
- ▶ Jot down notes about important happenings when you're apart and bring them up when you're back together
- ▶ Provide space for outside friendships, but don't forget the most important relationship—the two of you



Middleborn + Lastborn

- ▶ Middleborns like relationships to be smooth, lastborns like fun
- ▶ Both specialize in friendships
- ▶ Middleborns need to blend their social interests with activities the lastborn thinks are fun
- ▶ Lastborns must back off from always being in the spotlight and allow the middleborn to shine
- ▶ Both need to make sure the other person feels pampered and special



Lastborn + Lastborn

- ▶ These couples love to play!
- ▶ Both have great communication skills
- ▶ Need to remind themselves about the need to keep up with the mundane (bills, laundry, etc.)
- ▶ Decide together on who will do what, and find ways to build mutual accountability
- ▶ Take advantage of each others' excitement and spontaneity, and enjoy the ride!



And the two shall become one...

Solid marriages provide the foundation for thriving families. It takes working together in an environment of love, support and mutual respect. It takes a willingness to understanding how your mate and your children view life, and keeping God at the center of it all.

1 Cor 13:4-8

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.