

## WIDENING THE CIRCLE... A "WE" APPROACH EXCERPT FROM "PARENTING BEYOND YOUR CAPACITY" BY REGGIE JOINER AND CAREY NIEUWHOF

WHEN YOU WIDEN THE CIRCLE, YOU NOT ONLY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR OTHERS TO INFLUENCE YOUR CHILDREN, BUT ALSO THE NEED FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT IS MUCH LARGER THAN JUST YOUR FAMILY. A WIDER CIRCLE GIVES THEM NOT ONLY A PLACE TO BELONG BUT A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO ENGAGE IN A BIGGER STORY.

SETH GODIN MAKES THIS OBSERVATION: "HUMAN BEINGS CAN'T HELP IT; WE NEED TO BELONG. ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL OF OUR SURVIVAL MECHANISMS IS TO BE PART OF A TRIBE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO (AND TAKE FROM) A GROUP OF LIKE—MINDED PEOPLE."

THE RIGHT COMMUNITY IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT GIVES TO YOUR CHILDREN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF WHAT IT REQUIRES FROM YOUR CHILDREN. CHILDREN NEED MORE THAN JUST A FAMILY THAT GIVES THEM UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE AND LOVE; THEY NEED A TRIBE THAT GIVES THEM A SENSE OF BELONGING AND SIGNIFICANCE.

SOMETHING POWERFUL HAPPENS WHEN YOU PARTNER WITH OTHER INFLUENCES WHO DESIRE TO INSTILL A SENSE OF MISSION INTO THE HEARTS OF YOUR CHILDREN. YOU GIVE THEM A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD, AND YOU TRANSFER A DIFFERENT KIND OF PASSION TO THEM THAT YOUR FAMILY ALONE CANNOT GIVE THEM.

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