

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

### COUNTERINTUITIVE PARENTING

It may seem odd, but modern parenting of school-age children in Western cultures may be increasing anxiety in children rather than giving them confidence for life. “Unfortunately ... what the statistics and the studies show us,” says Jennifer Breheny Wallace, a journalist, parenting researcher, and author, “is that the very life-vest we’re hoping to put on our kids to keep them afloat in an uncertain future is actually ... acting more like a lead vest, and drowning too many of the kids we are trying to protect.” Parental anxiety over their children, especially their children’s performance in school and extracurricular activities, may be sending the message that what really matters is their scores, grades, and rankings. This can have a chilling effect on children, causing them to hesitate about taking the risks that will make them stronger and teach them how to handle anxiety in life.

### COUNTERINTUITIVE TRUST

Following God can sometimes seem counterintuitive to a watching world. Today’s passage reminds us that our own understanding—logical though it may be—is far inferior to the Lord’s commands and guidance. Proverbs reminds us that it’s better to trust in the Lord’s ways than in even the most popular or agreed-upon wisdom of the world.

1. What’s an example of a parenting strategy that did not work as planned?
2. When have you found something to be true but counterintuitive?
3. Why do God’s ways sometimes seem confusing to non-Christians?

### Additional Resources

*These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.*

Music Video, Traditional: [“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” by Rosemary Siemens](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“Hidden from Sight” by WYLD](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“Pour Your Spirit Out” by Thrive Worship](#)

[Alexander MacLaren’s Proverbs 3 Commentary](#)

[Guzik’s Commentary on Proverbs 3](#)

[GotQuestions Comments on Proverbs 3 \(note the questions at the bottom of the page\)](#)