

# *Motherhood*

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*Compiled by Kathleen Nelson*



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# *The Heart of a Mother*



## *The Heart of a Mother - Notes*

### The Struggle:

Am I \_\_\_\_\_ if all I do for the next 20 years is "mother" my small bunch of children?

Am I going to have \_\_\_\_\_?

When the empty nest comes, am I going to have \_\_\_\_\_ because I gave it all up for my children?

What about \_\_\_\_\_?

What about my \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_?

### Project(Cause, Mission) Value:

Is this project really \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_?

Does God really \_\_\_\_\_ it?

1 John 3:16 " This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Our tendency:

Your own children will be your \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 3:2, 3 "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

Philippians 2: 5-8 "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross.

Is this your \_\_\_\_\_ as a mommy?

John 12:23-24 Jesus replied, " Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

A quote by Susanna Wesley: "There are few, if any, that would devote up to twenty years out of their prime of life, in hopes of saving and raising their children.

The world tries to tell us we can " \_\_\_\_\_ ", that no \_\_\_\_\_ is needed."

Your Life Calling, Your \_\_\_\_\_ :

Have you ever said: "God has called \_\_\_\_\_ to be a mother."

Does that statement define your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_?

Psalms 127:3 "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him."

The bible never tells us that children are a \_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_, or a \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 144:12"Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and your daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace."

The problem is that we miss the opportunity that has been laid in our laps to make our \_\_\_\_\_ really \_\_\_\_\_. And that is through the \_\_\_\_\_ of being a mother.

Our tendency:

If it is God's plan, then you must make it \_\_\_\_\_.



If God gave you children, He gave you the \_\_\_\_\_, the resources, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the godly \_\_\_\_\_ to raise them and win with them for His glory.

The key? \_\_\_\_\_ God, pursuing His \_\_\_\_\_

A mother's influence \_\_\_\_\_.

A personal reflection: How do you want your kids to describe \_\_\_\_\_ as their mommy?

Psalms 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

Your mothering should be an \_\_\_\_\_ of your relationship with Christ.

Finding time with the Lord:

Taking a "break":

Psalms 62:1 "My soul finds rest in \_\_\_\_\_."

Our thoughts should not be, "I need a little '\_\_\_\_\_' time. Instead our thoughts should be, "I need a little '\_\_\_\_\_' time.

A personal reflection: Describe what you want your child's relationship with God to look like.

Anonymous quote: "A mother needs faith. Genuine, hearty, loving trust in God, a life in meek, glad surrender to His will, lived daily through years in the presence of children, is an immense power. They can never get away from the sweet memory that \_\_\_\_\_ was their mother's \_\_\_\_\_."

Embrace it \_\_\_\_\_:

Live your motherhood in such a way that you can say:

Galatians 6:7 "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

2 Corinthians 9:6 "Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

A personal reflection: What are some signs that you have given your heart to your children? What are some signs when you are mothering sparingly, when you are mothering generously?

**No \_\_\_\_\_ mothering:**

The \_\_\_\_\_ stuff versus the \_\_\_\_\_ stuff:

Guilt parenting:

A personal reflection: What about you? Do you already have regrets?

SO, where do you start? Where do you go from here?

Do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing!

Line up the \_\_\_\_\_ right \_\_\_\_\_!

## *Discussion Questions - Week 1*

1. Any thoughts, comments, or questions on what Kathleen talked about?
2. *Psalms 127:1a Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. NIV*

What do you expect the outcome to be if someone ignored the principles of parenting that are found in the Bible? How is this reflected in our society?

3. *Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. NIV*

In what way could this be discouraging to mothers? In what way could it be encouraging?

4. *1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. NIV*

What does it mean to “lay down our lives for our brothers?” How does that relate to parenting?

5. In the book *Praise Her in the Gates* by Nancy Wilson she says that the woman described in Proverbs 31 is a satisfied woman who ‘reaps a harvest of good things from her hard work of sowing obedience.’ How is that an encouragement to you in mothering?



## *Case Studies - Week 1*

### **Case one:**

Cher has been married for 6 years and has three children aged eight, five, and one. Cher's husband makes \$45,000 a year which is enough for her to live comfortably and not to have to work outside the home. Cher's children are quite wild and quite frankly drive her crazy. She feels like she is just not very gifted at mothering. Although her husband really wants her to stay at home with the two that are not in school, Cher really wants to go back to work as a computer technician, which is what she did before having children. She feels like that would be a better and more rewarding use of her time.

Cher comes to you for advice. What concerns do you have?

### **Case 2:**

Maureen is the mother of 4-year-old twins. Her husband is on staff at a church and is very busy leading different meetings and Bible studies. Maureen is also very involved in ministry and loves to be involved in discipling, Bible studies, and various women's meetings. As a result, her children are watched by several different women from her church often as much as 15-25 hours a week. Her children cry uncontrollably when she leaves, and pout when she comes back. They are fighting more and more with each other, and seem quite disrespectful to both of their parents. Although there are some signs that her kids are struggling, Maureen believes that as long as she is following God her kids will turn out fine.

What concerns do you have?

### **Case 3:**

Marla has two children who are living terrors. They fight and bicker and get into everything that isn't locked down. Marla is at her wits end. She feels like it is all she can do to just keep her house clean, and to cook meals for her family. Yesterday, when Marla was reorganizing the refrigerator, her children were unattended for 30 minutes in the garage and they got spray paint all over the car. She locked them in their room while she cried on the sofa for three hours straight.

What should she do?

**Case 4:**

Elsie got pregnant three months before marrying the father of her child. He also brought a child into their marriage from a previous relationship. After being married for two years Elsie feels like giving up. She thinks that her adopted child is really not her responsibility, and even wonders if she was ever really ready for her own kid. Elsie is plagued with thoughts of leaving the kids at home and running away to another state to start life over. Although she has been a Christian for several years, Elsie really doesn't feel like God cares about her situation or is helping her at all. Elsie tells you everything, and you think she could up and leave any day now.

What should you say to her?

**Case 5:**

Olivia was 25 years old when her husband died and left her with a three-year-old girl and \$12,000 of credit card debt. Olivia works eight hours a day seven days a week. This just barely covers her \$900 a month house payment, \$250 a month car payment, food, and other basic needs. But what really bothers her is that by the time she takes classes, volunteers at the hospital, and works out at the fitness center there is no time left in the day for her little girl who spends most of her days at either her mother's or her mother-in-law's house. She'd like to cut back on some of her activities, but is worried that she'll never find a husband if all she does is work and stay at home with her child.

What should you say to her?



## *Make Your Time Count*

*Psalm 144:4 Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow. (NIV)*

<u>Age</u>	<u>Fraction</u>				
18	= Done	13 ½	= 3/4	7.2	= 2/5
16	= 8/9	12	= 2/3	6	= 1/3
15	= 5/6	10.8	= 3/5	4 ½	= 1/4
14.4	= 4/5	10	= 5/9	4	= 2/9
14	= 7/9	9	= 1/2	3	= 1/6
		8	= 4/9	2	= 1/9

The preceding chart was something I handed out during a parenting series once. It shows how much time we have left with our kids in our homes. We know that when they are 18 we're pretty much done, but it's hard to believe that when they are 4 ½ we are already one fourth of the way done.

My wife cut this chart out and hung it above her desk as a reminder that time with our kids is short, and we need to make every day, every minute with our kids count. Of course, this was the intended purpose of the chart in the first place, but our 8 year old saw it and took offence to it. He thought we were just anxious to get rid of him. The chart came down.

Never the less, we are convinced of the importance of this truth. Time on earth is short. Time with your kids is even shorter.

One of the first bits of advice older people offer young parents is, "They are going to be grown and out of the house before you know it." It is easy for such advice to fall on deaf ears, but perhaps we should take heed instead. If there is one thing that the aged understand that the youths don't—it's time.

Every minute counts. Every game, every book, every show, every hug, every wink, every spanking, every word, every everything – it all counts. All of it will form and shape a human being, a spiritual being, who in 18 short years will be on his or her own. For 18 years we get to control the world to shape the kid. After that the kid can shape the world, or the world can shape the kid—much of that depends on what kind of kid we've produced.



## *Keep the End Product in Mind*

*Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children NIV*

What is the end result of our parenting? It is to produce an 18-year-old man or woman who is godly. Each child should have the character of a godly man or woman as described in the Bible.

Although I can't predict exactly how each kid will turn out and how their individual personalities will effect them, I still at times will try to picture what I'd like to see in each child when he or she is 17 or 18. I'd like to have children who are polite, who converse well with others, who are capable of leading others and being role models. I picture them sharing the gospel with their friends, being popular with their peers, and being willing and eager to sit and eat lunch in the high school cafeteria with those who don't quite fit in. I hope they'll be excited about their futures and that they'll be eager to go into careers where they can help serve and influence others. I expect them to be kids who are loved by their teachers and coaches. I expect them to be equipped to handle break-ups, let downs, and losses. Of course I expect them to make mistakes, and I hope they'll be able to handle those as well, because they will make mistakes for the rest of their lives.

It's also important to see that I'm not just measuring them against some Joe Christian figure in my head, but I'm trying to help them to become more and more like Jesus. Those descriptions are just how I imagine that would look played out in the life of a teenager (except of course without the sin part).

Many parents aim too low. They just want their kids to be descent people – good citizens. I want my children to be model Christians, godly men and women, and influencers. Men and women who imitate God, not their peers.

## *Aim high*

*2 Chronicles 34:1-3 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. <sup>2</sup>He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. <sup>3</sup>In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images. NIV*

Josiah was king at age 8 and at 16 was seeking God. By 20 he was reshaping Israel. He became a great man of God – a man without equal.

*2 Kings 23:25 Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses. NIV*

In today's society we feel like we're winning with our kids if they can read by the time they are in junior high. In past societies men have led nations by that age. Our kids are capable of great things.

What great things can you help equip your child to accomplish? Could they memorize 500 verses by age 18? Maybe they could complete a year of college or Bible school while in high school. Could they teach Sunday school by age 13? Could they lead their high school in a prayer at the pole event, or lead their Christian school in worship? Will your child be equipped to share the gospel, pray with his spouse, or talk a friend out of suicide? Will she serve in the church office, play in the band, or attend prayer meetings?

Any of these things are within reach, but to hit them we need to aim high.

## *Have Great Expectations*

*Luke 2:42-48 When he was twelve years old... they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. NIV*

Jesus was clearly impressively wise at the age of twelve.

Is there any reason our kids can't be the same? We have all kinds of tools available to us, Christian books, videos, the Bible on tape, etc... I think our kids can have a vast understanding of the Bible by the age of 12. In fact, I think they should know more than most adults, not only in relation to knowing the stories, but even in regards to wisdom and discernment.

We all know that the teen years can be particularly difficult. How encouraging it would be if much of our work was done by 12, and if the next 6 years could be spent on fine tuning character areas and equipping them with ministry skills!





## *Motherhood Quotes*

A mother is God's deputy on earth.

RACHEL L. VARNHAGEN

A mother understands what a child does not say.

JEWISH PROVERB

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

SPANISH PROVERB

Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child's fear. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her kids to do their best and be the best. But no editorials praise these accomplishments—where is the coverage our mothers rightfully deserve?

JAMES C. DOBSON (1936— ) AND

GARY L. BAUER (1946— )

God can't always be everywhere, and so he invented mothers.

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD (1832—1904)

In the eyes of its mother every beetle is a gazelle.

AFRICAN PROVERB

Let your home be your parish, your little brood your congregation, your living room a sanctuary, and your knee a sacred altar.

BILLY GRAHAM (1918— )

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY (1811—1863)

Motherhood is the greatest privilege of life.

MAY R. COKER

No gift to your mother can ever equal her gift to you—life.

No man is poor who has had a godly mother.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809—1865)

Thank you, God, For pretending not to notice that one of Your angels is missing and for guiding her to me. You must have known how much I would need her, so You turned your head for a minute and

allowed her to slip away to me. Sometimes I wonder what special name you had for her. I call her "Mother."

BERNICE MADDUX

The child, in the decisive first years of his life, has the experience of his mother as an all-enveloping, protective, nourishing power. Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth. To be loved by her means to be alive, to be rooted, to be at home.

ERICH FROMM (1900—1980)

The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.

SYDNEYJ. HARRIS (1917—1986)

The God to whom little boys say their prayers has a face very like their mother's.

SIR JAMES M. BARRIE (1860—1937)

The most important occupation on earth for a woman is to be a real mother to her children. It does not have much glory to it; there is a lot of grit and grime. But there is no greater place of ministry, position, or power than that of a mother.

PHIL WHISENHUNT

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

HENRY WARD BEECHER (1813—1887)

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and to become fully independent.

ERICH FROMM (1900—1980)

When God thought of mother, he must have laughed with satisfaction and framed it quickly—so rich, so deep, so divine, so full of soul, power, and beauty was the conception.

HENRY WARD BEECHER (1813—1887)

Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall. A mother's secret love outlives them all.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (1809—1894)

*From Drapers Book of Quotations for the Christian World, © 1992 by Edythe Draper, Tyndale House*



# *Establishing Parental Authority*





## *Establishing Parental Authority - Notes*

Parenting is our \_\_\_\_\_ - given \_\_\_\_\_

First, the role of the \_\_\_\_\_

If you decide to marry a guy, you have to \_\_\_\_\_ him enough  
to \_\_\_\_\_ your child to him!

Destruction when a husband is not granted/ does not take his  
rightful, God-given \_\_\_\_\_ - in the family -

Ephesians 5:22-24 For the husband is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of  
which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to  
Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in  
everything.

A father doesn't have to \_\_\_\_\_ his position, just as mothers  
don't \_\_\_\_\_ their position first

Not a wife's \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to  
withhold this role from him, to interfere

\_\_\_\_\_ his input.

\_\_\_\_\_ his input.

Why this is so difficult?

**It's \_\_\_\_\_ baby!!**

Hilary Clinton: "It takes a village to raise a child."

\_\_\_\_\_ !!!!!

God gives \_\_\_\_\_ for your \_\_\_\_\_ family  
that HE is not going to give anyone else -

Pick a few solid \_\_\_\_\_

Second, the role of a \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a \_\_\_\_\_ suitable for him."

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a \_\_\_\_\_ who will help him." NLT

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, "It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs." TLB

to \_\_\_\_\_ her husband, even in \_\_\_\_\_

obviously there is a \_\_\_\_\_ if it is clearly \_\_\_\_\_

Take a minute - Has your husband ever asked you, **even gently suggested**.....

Would you be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ God in this?

**Romans 12:18 "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace...."**

**A side note:** Follow \_\_\_\_\_ husband,  
not your \_\_\_\_\_,  
not someone else's \_\_\_\_\_  
not your \_\_\_\_\_.

(1 Peter 3:5 "for this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to \_\_\_\_\_

Take a minute - How would your husband respond if you asked him...?

Now that you know you personally have been given authority by God to parent your specific children, we need to look at the importance of:

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Understanding everyone has a role -  
- officer to soldier, teacher to student

**Must have obedience in order to \_\_\_\_\_ them**

Obey to the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ -

Must have their \_\_\_\_\_ -  
automatically given it as babies -

as they age, you must \_\_\_\_\_ it - it is something that  
if you don't work for it, you will end up not having it -

**"Having their hearts" -**

When your children \_\_\_\_\_ your authority  
When your children have a desire to \_\_\_\_\_ you  
When your \_\_\_\_\_ and what you \_\_\_\_\_ matters  
the most to them  
When they \_\_\_\_\_ your input  
When they \_\_\_\_\_ your discipline

Take a minute -

At what age did your parents \_\_\_\_\_?

Now, at what age do you want to \_\_\_\_\_?

In order to understand the type of authority that you need to establish, you must understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that you will have authority over -

(Ex. - horse trainer -

You better make sure your assessment of your subject is accurate or all your work could be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to make sure we get our assessment of our children from what \_\_\_\_\_ says about them - not what the world says about them.

Eternal being -

Biblical perspective of our flesh -

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to \_\_\_\_\_ men, because \_\_\_\_\_ sinned-

Psalm 58:3 "Even from \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked go astray; from the \_\_\_\_\_ they are wayward and speak lies."

Proverbs 22: 15 "Foolishness is bound up in the \_\_\_\_\_ of a child..."

Children are not born \_\_\_\_\_.

Appearance leads to deception.

Have you ever had to teach your child to say " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ "?

At issue: "How do I catch it all?"

always going to have things to \_\_\_\_\_ on, like you  
not going to be \_\_\_\_\_, like you  
going to have \_\_\_\_\_, like you

Children are very easily influenced-that's how we can impact their very \_\_\_\_\_

Are there things in your own life that are there from parental influence that you wish you could get rid of?

**So what can you shape a child like this into? What should be your goal? What are you going for?**

Bonsai parenting -

The difference between a "good neighbor" and a "godly neighbor" -

Now, about guarantees in this parenting business...

Do you believe God \_\_\_\_\_ you to win with your kids?  
**Why?**

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ between God's promises being fulfilled in a family and parents \_\_\_\_\_ their God-given responsibilities diligently, faithfully, consistently year after year after year.

18 years of influence -

the influence of our own personal lives -

1 Tim 4:12, 15-16 "Set an \_\_\_\_\_...in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity...Be diligent in these matters; \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_ to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. \_\_\_\_\_ in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

*Quote from Elizabeth Elliott - "God never issued instructions which He is not prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ us to follow. The contrast between the actual and the ideal, between the reality and the holy standard, is bridged by the grace of God, and by our prayers for the application of that grace."*

In order to get that authority, in order to keep that authority, you must be committed to trusting God and not \_\_\_\_\_ on your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Children are your \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.**

but not \_\_\_\_\_ our children,

not in \_\_\_\_\_ of our children,

not at the \_\_\_\_\_ of our children.

Take a minute - Think through, what do you mostly do with your days?

**Deut.6:6-8 "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. \_\_\_\_\_ about them when you sit at home and when you \_\_\_\_\_ along the road, when you \_\_\_\_\_ down and when you \_\_\_\_\_ up."-**

According to this verse, how should your days look? Don't overlook this or disregard this.

The Word calls us to be \_\_\_\_\_ at home -

We must \_\_\_\_\_ home to accomplish, to set the foundation.

- Prov 20 :4" A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing."

- How does that verse relate to motherhood?

Some type of guidelines/ direction:

The clean house trap-

The time on the web/ email trap -

The phone trap -

Take a minute - Do you work harder at \_\_\_\_\_?

Only two things above them:

#1

#2

The importance of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_their lives for them

**Keeping little ones at home:**

helps them to manage their own \_\_\_\_\_,

helps them not be distracted to your \_\_\_\_\_,

helps them to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in

nonexciting boundaries, which is most of life

**Mother without \_\_\_\_\_ -**

\_\_\_\_\_ while you mother, don't mother while you task

Hobbies -

Nehemiah story - Nehemiah 6:3 -

**THE QUESTION: WHAT SHOULD A MOTHER'S TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE  
(OR AT LEAST THE MAJORITY OF THEM)?**

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

What should I focus on doing?

+

Titus 2:4 "Then they (the older women) can teach the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands so that no one will malign the word of God."

Where should I be the majority of my time?

+

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

How should I do it?

=

**Add all of these up to answer the above question:**



## *Are They Going to Turn Out? Part 1*

### *Appearances and Free-Will*

I think a myth exists in Christian circles that when it really comes down to it, you can't truly have much of an impact on the outcome of your children. People think that you can raise them right, invest eighteen years of your life into them, but when they hit their upper teen years, anything can (and will) happen.

This is a fundamental issue to address in parenting, because if it is true, than why in the world would any parent pour his or her heart, soul, energy, and life into parenting? Seeing the light at the end of the tunnel is a key motivator for most of us. Why would an athlete train if he didn't have hope of improving? Why would a student study if she had no hope of learning, graduating, or applying the material? We need to know that our efforts will pay off at some point. If there is no guarantee in how our kids will turn out, then there is little motivation to really parent wholeheartedly.

So, what's the truth? Well, we need to start by realizing that any good lie has a lot of truth mixed in with it. Blatant lies are much more easily spotted than ones laced with truth, and like any good lie, this one has a lot of truth to it. So, before addressing why we can have confidence in the outcome of our children, let's address why we doubt that truth.

First of all, let's talk about appearances. I've seen many good parents who have had kids that didn't turn out well. I've also seen some kids with pretty admirable character who came out of some pretty messed up families. From outward appearances it would be pretty easy to deduce that parents can't control the outcome of their kids very well.

The second strong argument for the case that you can't dictate the outcome of your children's lives is the issue of freewill. The concept of freewill is simply this: God has created each of us with the ability to choose. I am not bound to make any choice based upon anyone else's will—not God's, not the government's, and not my parents. The choice is mine. Of course, God, the government, and my parents may dictate certain consequences for certain actions to help me make wise choices, but that is another topic. The point is that your children have choices. They will have to choose whether or not to have premarital sex, to do drugs, to become Christians, and countless other choices. You cannot make those choices for your kids. Some people will put it this way, "Adam messed up didn't he? And who was his parent? You don't think you can parent better than God do you?"

Let's address these two arguments, and then we'll look at some reasons to believe that **YOU CAN HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR KIDS.**

So what about appearances? Is it true that we can't guarantee the outcome of our

children, and that the lives of hundreds of other families prove that point? I'd say that is a very important question to consider, but I'd also say that appearances are very deceiving. Over the past few decades family values have eroded away in both Christian and non Christian homes. Perhaps what we think of as a good home is only good in comparison to other homes. It is possible that many "good homes" are really not that good at all. It may be that the standards in the average Christian home are so far off, that they're really not worth looking to for what works and what doesn't. That is my opinion. I think the average Christian parents try hard, and fail miserably. I'm not saying every parent who goes through tough times, or who has had a child turn from God has failed miserably. I don't believe that. But I think very few parents really nail it with parenting. They put in lots of time, energy, and effort, but they don't nail it. Is that proud to say that we can succeed where others have failed? I think it is if we are basing our confidence on our own efforts and programs it is, but if the belief in the future success of our children is based on what God says, then that is not proud at all! That is faith.

Let me put it this way. I'm not very good at losing weight. Most people I know are not very good at losing weight. Some people I know eat very little and are still overweight. Some people I know eat a lot and never gain any weight. However, it would be wrong to issue a blanket statement that we really have no control over the outcome of our weight. We all know, when it comes right down to it, that the issue of weight loss is simply a matter of exercise and diet. Some people are an exception to the rule, like those with health issues, but for most of us, exercise and diet, is the key to weight loss. In the same way, in parenting you should not fear (or take comfort in) the failures of others. Just because lots of parents are failing does not mean that we should issue a blanket statement that says, "Parenting does not work. You cannot control how your kids turn out." On the contrary, just like in dieting, there are principles that will bring great success for the vast majority of the parents who apply them. Could there be exceptions? Sure, there may be exceptions to the rule, but the rule should be that good parents using good parenting principles will result in good kids who become good adults. I'm every bit as confident of that as the fact that if I diet and exercise, I WILL lose weight.

What about the issue of free will? How can I have any confidence in how my kids turn out when I know that they have freewill? This is an excellent point, and I think this is why there could be exceptions to the rule that good parents using good parenting principles will result in good kids who become good adults. Your kids will always have freewill, however, you have an incredible amount of influence on their will. We expect teachers to impact students, officers to change soldiers, and coaches to influence athletes. Why wouldn't we expect parents to impact their kids? Students, soldiers, and athletes all have freewill, and yet they are greatly influenced by those over them. Jesus said, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained WILL be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40) Why wouldn't we expect the same thing from a parent who spends 18 years TRAINING his or her children?

One might ask, "What about Judas? Wasn't he trained by Jesus? Didn't his freewill win out?" That's a good point to which I have three responses. First of all, if Christians today "lost" only one out of every twelve of their children I'd be a whole lot more

encouraged with the situation than I am now. Secondly, it seems as if Judas may have been chosen as a disciple not to be a disciple, but for the very purpose of betraying Jesus and fulfilling scripture (John 17:12). Thirdly, I don't think anyone would argue that Judas was "fully trained" as referred to in the verse when it says, "Everyone who is fully trained WILL be like his teacher." Had Judas been Jesus' son (sounds like a great Star Wars plot) I most certainly would not have expected that kind of outcome from his life.

You must realize that if you do a good job raising your kids they will be much more likely to be model citizens than if you don't. Your kids should be far more likely to be following God than to become atheists. They should be far more likely to be doctors, missionaries, and judges than to turn out to be frauds, serial killers, or terrorists. Why? Because of your example, your training, and your influence. Yes they have freewill. But you can greatly influence that will, just as your parents, teachers, and Sunday school teachers have greatly influenced you and your will – for the better or for the worse.

—Steve Nelson

## *Are They Going to Turn Out? Part 2*

### *What Guarantees Do You Have?*

Let's go back to a question that we looked at earlier. Why in the world would any parent pour his or her heart, soul, energy, and life into parenting? Of course, the answer (or maybe one answer) is that we can greatly influence them, and that through them we can greatly influence the world. However, the question still remains. Can we be guaranteed of success?

The verse commonly used to encourage parents and to give them hope is the following:

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. NIV

This verse quite clearly says that if you set children down a certain course, they will continue to follow down that course. Yet, most of us have seen families that appear to be exceptions to this verse, and as a result, our faith in its reliability can be challenged. I think the following excerpt may help lay a foundation for further discussion. It is an excerpt from James Dobson and is taken from the Focus on the Family Bulletin – March 2002

**Q. You have said that the children of godly parents sometimes go into severe rebellion and never return to the faith they were taught. I have seen that happen to some wonderful families who loved the Lord and were committed to the church. Still, it appears contradictory to Scripture, which says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Doesn't this verse promise that all wayward offspring will eventually return to the fold?**

A. I wish Solomon's message to us could be interpreted that definitively. I know that the common understanding of the passage is to accept it as a divine guarantee, but it was not expressed in that context. Psychiatrist John White, writing in his book *Parents in Pain*, makes the case that the proverbs were never intended to be absolute promises from God. Instead, they are probabilities of things that are likely to occur. Solomon, who wrote Proverbs, conveyed his divinely inspired observations on the way human nature and God's universe work. A given set of circumstances can be expected to produce a set of specific consequences.

Unfortunately, several of these observations, including Proverbs 22:6, have been lifted out of that context and made to stand alone as promises from God. If we insist on that interpretation, then we must explain why so many other proverbs do not inevitably prove accurate.

For example, Proverbs 10:4: "*Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*" Have you ever met a diligent—but poor—Christian? I have.

*"The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short"*

(10:27). I've seen some beautiful children die with a Christian testimony on their lips.

*"No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble"* (12:21).

We can all think of exceptions to the statements above.

Parents who believe that Proverbs 22:6 offers a guarantee of salvation for the next generation must remember that even as Adam and Eve were given the choice between good and evil, God also gives that same freedom to each individual.

I think Dobson's statements are quite profound, and perhaps a touch controversial. But is he right? Let's look at the verse again.

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*

If this verse does not at first seem to ring true to us, what do we do with it?

We can:

- 1) **Redefine it.** Maybe we need to redefine some of the terms. Perhaps "He will not turn from it" doesn't mean that he will follow it, but just that he will not reject it. Or maybe "train" incorporates the idea that they have not just been taught, but have accepted and followed the teaching—in which case following the teaching and being trained go hand-in-hand. I'm sure there are other words or phrases we could redefine as well.

The problem with this approach is that if you play with the words too much, the verse gets so watered down that they lose meaning. If there is no real hope offered by the verse, or no instruction, then why was it put in the Bible?

- 2) **Restrict it.** Perhaps very few parents succeed in training a child in the way he should go. Maybe we need to restrict our application of the verse to only applying to the parents who have REALLY excelled with their children. It is possible that what we perceive as successful parenting is not really enough and that the parents who have "failed" never really fulfilled their obligation to train their children properly.

The problem with this approach is that even if we raise the bar on what it means to train a child in the way he should go, it still seems like there are exceptions. If we raise the bar even higher than that, the hope being offered seems unattainable. It would be like saying, "If you do a perfect job raising your child, and never falter, your child will follow all that you taught him." Do you see how that waters down the verse, just like redefining all the terms does? If you raise the standard to something that is unattainable, then what hope is there? Why try to meet the standard? And why even put the verse in the Bible?

- 3) **Rethink it.** Perhaps it's not a promise at all, but a principle. Perhaps it's a guiding truth of life but not an outright guarantee. This seems to be the approach the Dobson is taking in the above quote.

The problem with this approach is that the success rate of parents doesn't seem to even support the idea of it being a guiding truth. In other words, it not only doesn't

seem like an “absolute promise” but it doesn’t even seem like a truth that generally reflects life very well.

So which is it? I personally think it is number 2 mixed in with a little number 3. I don’t think it is an absolute guarantee that your child will follow you in every single area in which they’ve been taught. That would seem to go against the teaching of freewill. However, Proverbs 22:6 was put in the Bible to give you hope—to inspire you to a certain course in your parenting. And I believe that *even if* it is only a guiding principle, then it is one that is worth following. Good parenting produces good results. That should be true in every case, or at least in almost all of the cases. I think that is the spirit of Proverbs 22:6, and if the hope we take from that verse gets any more watered down than that I think we should seriously question whether we truly believe God’s Word or not.

I also believe that most parents do not do a nearly adequate job in raising their children. Many take a whack at it, but very few hit the nail on the head—and if you don’t hit a nail on the head the nail doesn’t usually fair very well, does it? It is not enough to go to church, set a curfew, keep your kids out of R rated movies, and keep them off drugs. Training a child in the way he should go involves a much deeper level of involvement than most parents pursue.

I believe as parents we can hold a very high level of confidence in the outcome of our kids. Even if we don’t have an absolute 100%-money-back-guarantee, we still have a principle given to us by God for the very purpose of giving us such a hope and expectation. Parent in a way that teaches your kids how to follow God wholeheartedly, and expect that to bear good and lasting fruit in the lives of your kids.

Remember that everything that does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:23). God wants us to trust him with this. Too many parents live in fear instead of faith. They fear that God’s Word won’t prove true, or that they will be the exception, rather than living in faith that if they trust in His Word and follow it that it will lead them down a good path. Have faith that God’s way will win!

—Steve Nelson

## *Are They Going to Turn Out? Part 3*

### *You Can Win*

What would you think if God didn't allow someone to be a pastor because he was ugly, or disfigured, or because he had a brother who didn't follow the Lord. It would seem wrong to disallow someone from pastoring because of something that he had no control over, had nothing to do with his job, and had nothing to do with the set roles that God had given him.

So, you may be asking yourself, what does this have to do with parenting? My response is, "Everything!" Look at the following verses:

1 Timothy 3:4-5 [An elder] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) NIV

1 Timothy 3:12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. NIV

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. NIV

I personally think these are the strongest verses in the Bible that definitively show that you can win with your kids. I just can't see any possible way to explain them away.

1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 lay out the requirements for church leaders, and one of the requirements is that they have good kids—kids who are believers, who are not wild and disobedient, who are manageable, and who respect their fathers. Now if a father has a fair amount of control of these things in his kids' lives, then this requirement is fair. However, if fathers really have little or no control over how their kids turn out, then this requirement for church leadership is as random as if God required His leaders to be members of the Arian race, or if God judged them based on the behavior of their extended family. Do you see the connection now? God would not require that leaders have good kids if having good kids was merely a product of dumb luck! Having good kids is a result of following God's principles in your own life, and in your parenting practices!

CLEARLY, God believes that parents are equipped for, responsible for, and capable of producing good kids—kids who are believers, who are not wild and disobedient, who are manageable, and who respect their parents.

Parent, you **MUST** be convinced of this. You **MUST** take ownership for how your children turn out, and you **MUST** have faith that with God, all things are possible.

Everyone else may think that your job as a parent is just to educate, provide for, and protect your kids until they are on their own. Everyone else may think that you just have to cross your fingers and hope they turn out okay, but you are not everyone else. You must lock into the responsibility that God has given you. He clearly thinks you can change the outcome of your kids' lives. You need to believe the same!

—Steve Nelson



# *Rules and Standards*



## *Rules and Standards - Notes*

### 3 Specific Goals of our rules and standards -

Establishing the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
of our home

Giving the \_\_\_\_\_ His rightful place in our homes

Goal #1. \_\_\_\_\_ to God

Goal #2. Supports, enforces their \_\_\_\_\_ as a child of God

When we are parenting, we are \_\_\_\_\_:

*Proverbs 14:1* "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down."

*1 Corinthians 3:10-15* - "But each one should be \_\_\_\_\_ how he builds. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. *It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.* If what he has built survives, he will receive his \_\_\_\_\_. If it is burned up, he will \_\_\_\_\_; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. "

Goal #3.

as \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord as possible,

Our goal is not to just \_\_\_\_\_ our kids and have them be \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matt 28:19, 20* - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ families.

### Foundational rules and standards -

According to the \_\_\_\_\_!!!!

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ - Galatians 5:22, 23

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness, and self-control-

The presence or lack of the fruits of the Spirit indicate the -  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 13 love - love is patient, love is kind, not proud, gentle....

Sometimes love is a \_\_\_\_\_, and sometimes love is  
an \_\_\_\_\_; either way it needs to consistently happen!

### Standards in our own personal lives:

For you, as the parent:

"Character is what you are in the \_\_\_\_\_." - Dwight L. Moody

1 Tim 4:12, 15-16 "Set an example...

in \_\_\_\_\_,

in \_\_\_\_\_,

in \_\_\_\_\_,

in \_\_\_\_\_,

and in \_\_\_\_\_....Be diligent in these matters; give yourself  
wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life  
and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both  
yourself and your hearers."

- Your life will reflect what you \_\_\_\_\_

- o I can't ask my kids to be anything  
that \_\_\_\_\_.

Standards for the children:

For them -

Remember that they are recipients of  
exactly what you \_\_\_\_\_ to them,  
what world that \_\_\_\_\_ create for them  
- that world is defined by the \_\_\_\_\_ you  
set and the \_\_\_\_\_ you make.

"Team player" -

Rules communicate to the children-

"we \_\_\_\_\_ in you"-

"we will \_\_\_\_\_ you"-

"your life has \_\_\_\_\_"

Rules/ Standards -the \_\_\_\_\_ first,  
not just their \_\_\_\_\_

**More than behavior** - danger of focusing on behavior -

A behavior change that does not come from a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ will come back and bite you in the form of rebellion when  
they are older!!!!

Direct correlation between heart and behavior

- "The behavior a person exhibits is an expression of the overflow of the heart." -  
*Shepherding a Child's Heart*

"What your children \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is a reflection of what is in their  
hearts." - *Shepherding a Child's Heart*

(Recommended reading: *Shepherding a Child's Heart* - by Dr. Tedd Tripp)

**More than education** -

What is important? Your child's character!!!

Character Areas - "Character is simply \_\_\_\_\_ long continued." - Plutarch

How do we establish rules and standards?  
(handout called "Setting the Standard")

\_\_\_\_\_ days are a must to establish rules and standards

Shaping them -

**Myth of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Called to \_\_\_\_\_ -**

*1 Kings 1:5-6 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. <sup>6</sup>(His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)*

David may have been a man after God's own heart in many areas, but he failed as a father. David's son Amnon raped his own half-sister. His son Absalom killed Amnon, tried to take the kingdom away from David, and even slept with David's concubines. David's son Adonijah tried to take the kingdom from David when the time for him to appoint his successor was near. David's family was a mess.

**Danger!**

Too much \_\_\_\_\_ and too little

\_\_\_\_\_ Freedom comes naturally.

You have to \_\_\_\_\_ to give them responsibility.

**Misconception** - Childhood years are for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Result of not interfering:**

Proverb 29:15 "a child left to himself \_\_\_\_\_ his mother." How do you say that in today's terms?

**End result of a godly child:**

\*self-imposed \_\_\_\_\_

\*self-\_\_\_\_\_ (they make the choice to do the right thing BYTHEMSELVES),

\*self-\_\_\_\_\_ system

**Always be thinking!!** As an \_\_\_\_\_

"Make our days count..."

-It has been said, "Let every Christian father and mother understand, when their child is \_\_\_\_\_ years old, that they have done more than half of all they will ever do for his \_\_\_\_\_."

**URGENCY OF YOUR DAYS**

Spend time at home -

Value of structure

**Relationships -**

**Parent/Child Relationship:**

Establishing and \_\_\_\_\_ Authority -  
Obey \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_!

"Look into my eyes"

"Touch my leg "

"Yes Mom" - not "why Mommy?"

"Others may, we may not." - "Others may not, we may."

"No words"

"One spot; you can't get up." - blanket time

"May I please ask a question?" - No talk back

As a parent, don't be afraid to say \_\_\_\_\_!

"*Growing Up Whitney*" pg. 85-86 "There is power, wisdom, and strength in saying "no". The Bible is filled with the concept of "no". Eight of the Ten commandments are "no". The "do not" instructions are general, simple and easily understood, and God gives them to us in big doses, page after page. From the first chapter to the last, God's Word is filled with all kinds of "no's". God is simple, strong and repetitive in teaching us over and over what not to do. Often it can seem that the "no's" of the Bible are just not that helpful anymore. However, if we think this, we are in error. The first things we teach our children always involve the concept of "no" and I dare say that much of our work as they get older still involves the discipline of saying "no" in one way or another. Have you ever wondered whether too many "no's" will hurt your child's self image? God doesn't seem to worry about it. Why are we so overly concerned about a healthy self-image anyway? Our prisons are filled with men who have strong self-images. Here in Colorado, a university study concluded that some of the strongest self-image scores in our state were found among the general prison population at Canyon City State Penitentiary. God knows that true and healthy confidence comes from obedience. When we disregard the "no's" in life, that is when we get hurt. It is our rebellion against rule and law that damages us. ... To see this happen, we need to "lower the boom" over and over. We cannot "spare for their crying" whether they are three or 13. We generally should not yield to them or to their wants. .... The word "no" is a good word. There is nothing wrong or old-fashioned about "no".

If your child is not bringing you \_\_\_\_\_, it is \_\_\_\_\_ issue.

### Relationship with Others:

Others focused - "Be \_\_\_\_\_."

Others more important than yourself - "Be a \_\_\_\_\_ to others."

### Share, share, share

1 Corinthians 3:19 "For the wisdom of this world is  
\_\_\_\_\_ in God's sight."



Teaching them - i.e. sharing a room

How to get along with roommates

About marriage

About sharing

About being content

### **Serve, serve, serve**

Starts in the \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:7,8 "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

**Forgiveness** - Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_

One Standard - \_\_\_\_\_

"When children fail, parents have a good opportunity to demonstrate the difference between failing and being a failure. Learning to fail successfully is part of living successfully." -Charles Stanley -

- shows \_\_\_\_\_ for God

**Repentance** - goal of the heart -

The \_\_\_\_\_ must change, not just the \_\_\_\_\_.

Rev.3:20 "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline, so be earnest and repent."

**Unity** -

High standard of respecting others, getting along;

Impact of Parents "wording" on unity in the family

Hard work -

Overall rule:

\_\_\_\_\_ manages, \_\_\_\_\_ do the work - even little ones

Think through: "What can I include them in on?"

**Result:**

Put the time in \_\_\_\_\_ in order to produce the \_\_\_\_\_ result. Yes, it will be hard for four to five days until they are trained, but it is so worth it  
FOR THEM AND FOR YOU

**Natural, but \_\_\_\_\_ behavior –**

\_\_\_\_\_ behavior not the goal; behavior defined by the \_\_\_\_\_ is the goal.

Boys naturally \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Girls naturally \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart..." "See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."**

Tangible Examples:

## *Directing Personal Choices (Pierced)*

Young people are prone to foolishness and fads; the cure comes through tough-minded discipline. (Proverbs 22:15 The Message)

Many parents question whether or not they should interfere with their children's personal choices. Should you let your kids pierce their ears, noses, navels, or tongues? Is it okay if they stay out late, or even all night? Can they cut off all their hair, grow it long, make it spiked, or die it orange? Is it all right if they wear mini-skirts, tube tops, a dog collar, or dress all in black? Is it okay if they get tattooed? Should you let them smoke if they want to? Can you pick their friends?

Just because these questions are personal choices does not limit your authority and responsibility to set boundaries. God in his infinite wisdom has given *your* children to *you* to parent. He wants *you* to use *your* wisdom to lovingly guide and direct *them*.

Almost all choices could be viewed as personal, and almost all choices have social impacts. Education affects a child's personhood. It is your responsibility to guide and direct the educational process. It would be wrong to just say, "Who am I to force my child to be educated? Is that really my right?" That's ridiculous. As parents we jump in and encourage our kids to study and to learn as much as they can because we believe that will help them develop certain life skills and help equip them for adulthood.



If we can direct choices such as education, then we should see that other more personal life choices can and should also be directed, because they also affect a child's ability to succeed and be a positive contributor to society.

Their habits, dress, appearance, and even friends affect everything about your children: social circles, employment opportunities, ability to relate to others, and effectiveness in outreach. This being the case it only makes sense to interfere in their lives and direct them in ways that you think would be good for them.

Parents can often be fooled into thinking that choices in such areas are important for kids to make on their own because that is their identity. I don't believe this is the case. You as the parent are shaping their identity in many ways. Instead of focusing on our child's personality and preferences, we should focus on who the Bible says they are and their identity in Christ. Typically what teens are expressing in these areas is not their identity, but their rebellion against the standards of their home and the standards of society. If so gifted, your children can be artsy, creative people without rebelling against society. Having them cut their hair, cover up their bodies, and look basically human is not some kind of horrible dogmatic repression. Instead, it is a the loving, guiding hand of parents who clearly understand their God-given authority in their children's lives.

- Steve Nelson



## *The Measure of a ...*

### **The Measure of a boy / girl**

1. Obedient
2. Pays attention
3. Learns to share, is considerate of others
4. Accepts discipline without anger or pouting
5. Responds to direction to control emotions
6. Starts building a reputation
7. Starts developing good work habits
8. Can handle pain

### **The Measure of a Young Man / Woman**

1. Has a sense of purpose
2. Has good work habits (Is a self-starter)
3. Distinguishes him/herself by good deeds
4. Is strong against peer pressure
5. Develops the right friends
6. Is not naive
7. Values parent's instruction in his heart
8. Trusts in God's Word
9. Manages his/her emotions
10. Has good speech
11. Not foolish, is sensible
12. Has a good countenance
13. Respects others, protects siblings
14. Honors opposite sex
15. Knows how to handle suffering
16. Is trustworthy and faithful
17. Has Biblical understanding of grace and forgiveness

### **The Measure of a Man / Woman**

1. Knows Proverbs
2. Exhibits Fruits of the Spirit
3. Controls emotions
4. Has strong overall character
5. Can handle responsibility and pressure
6. Has wisdom
7. Is a devoted disciple
8. Can lead – others and family
9. Has character qualities of an elder

Taken from a Rick Whitney seminar.

Contact info:  
*Great Commission Northwest*  
*11851 Orleans Circle*  
*Commerce City, CO 80022*

[www.gcnwdads.com](http://www.gcnwdads.com)



## *Sample Standards/Chores*

These standards are certainly not what each of our children does all the time, but they are ones that they are capable of. Our purpose in sharing these is not to set up our children as the ideal, because they are not. The purpose is just to give some frame of reference as to what you can expect from different age groups.

- Steve and Kathleen Nelson

Malia (18 months)

- Sit down in her highchair when told to
- Come when asked to
- Sit still in my lap for 10 minutes (no fussing or touching my keyboard)
- Stay on a blanket for 30 minutes without getting off (can play with toys or watch a video, but may not fuss)
- Stay in a room when told to
- Refrain from touching off limit items (plants, TV, stove, outlets, keyboard, etc...)
- Will stay in bed

(There is a huge difference between 1 ½ years and 3 ½ years due to continued training and communication abilities.)

Keziah (3 ½)

- Can do simple tasks and favors. (get me a pop, throw away a piece of trash, go get a Kleenex, etc...)  
“Be mommy’s helper”
- Can help pickup toys
- Share
- Play in room quietly
- Lay down quietly even if not sleeping
- Obeys when we say “no words”
- Will work to control emotions (tries to suck it up, can cry quietly)
- Will try new foods and eat what she’s told to.
- Help bring groceries in
- Will not demand her own way and win

(There is a huge difference between 3 ½ years and 5 ½ years due to continued training, physical , and mental abilities.)

### Silas (5 ½)

- Helps quite a bit around the house (helps with sweeping, dishes, pickup, etc...)
- Can fold and put away own laundry
- Can completely pick up a room nicely by himself
- Can help entertain younger children
- Can stop in the middle of a task he enjoys to do something that is asked of him (not always joyfully at first)
- Can sit quietly and read a book or do a task for 30 minutes or more
- Often reads from children's short story Bible (claims he read the O.T!)
- Can politely answer phone ("Hello, Nelsons. Would you like to talk to my mom or dad?...One moment please.")
- Knows major Bible stories
- Has 10-15 verses memorized

### Hope (7 ½)

- Significant help around the house (sweeping, can load and unload dishes, pickup, etc...)
- Can sort out a load of laundry and load it, run it, transfer it to dryer, fold it, and put it away
- Can play with children with an outreach mindset or sit next to a new kid in Sunday school instead of next to her friends
- Diligent worker
- Reads from Children's Bible
- Knows major Bible stories well. Knows many minor Bible stories.
- Has 15-20 verses memorized (Familiar with others)

### Blaise (9 ½)

- Significant help around house—almost like having another adult. He can even motivate other kids to help at times. He can pick up a whole floor completely, sweep and mop by himself, dishes, laundry, etc... (He just started mowing the yard, but needs lots of grace ☺)
- Will self start at times – read on own, clean up to surprise us, do homework, etc...
- Will obey without demanding to know the "whys" (trusts mom and dad's judgment)
- Can prioritize siblings over peers
- Still disobeys at times, but wrestles to do right (Much like I do!)
- Will frequently confess his sins before he is caught
- Has own quiet times from a New Century Version Bible
- Knows major and minor Bible stories and details well (Knows all the judges, many of the kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, parables, etc...)
- Has 45 verses memorized (Familiar with many others)
- Shows spiritual concern for others, invites people to church.



Blaise (11 ½)

- Can do most chores and responsibilities that an adult can do.
- Can mow the yard.
- Does babysitting for a small group (where adults are still in the home). He also baby-sits for us for short periods of time while we run errands or take a walk around the park.
- Is doing some odd jobs like taking care of the neighbor's house while they are on vacation.
- Serves as a Sunday school helper in church.
- Serves as a Power Point operator at church.
- Can keep track of own responsibilities and events with minimal supervision: what day to take out trash, when he is scheduled to serve at church, what night he baby-sits, etc...
- Has taken an outreach class and learned to share his faith. He has done so on a handful of occasions.
- Tries to engage his friends in spiritual conversations.
- Has consistent quiet times. (at least 4 days a week with mom and dad, some other adults, and Hope (9 ½). We all read, pray, or memorize for 40 minutes and then for the last ten minutes we share what we read.)
- Has 100 verses memorized well.
- Shows spiritual concern for others, invites people to church.
- Academic: responsible for managing his own school
- Reads and finishes a book within a designated time frame
- Has a list of 15 responsibilities (academic, spiritual, chores, relationships, etc.) that he is responsible to complete every day with no parental oversight.



# House Rules

- 1. Always live in a way that honors God.**  
*Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*
- 2. Treat others as you would want to be treated.**  
*Matthew 7:12 Do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*
- 3. Share with others.**  
*Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
- 4. Only tell the truth.**  
*Leviticus 19:11b "Do not lie.' 'Do not deceive one another."*
- 5. Don't take what belongs to someone else.**  
*Leviticus 19:11a "Do not steal."*
- 6. Be thankful for what you have, and what you're given.**  
*Philippians 4:11b I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*
- 7. Be kind to others.**  
*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another.*
- 8. Treat your siblings with great kindness. They are your closest "neighbors."**  
*Mark 12:31a The second [most important command] is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*
- 9. Obey your parents.**  
*Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*
- 10. Treat your parents with respect.**  
*Ephesians 6:2a "Honor your father and mother."*
- 11. Obey teachers, coaches, and other trusted adults.**  
*1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men.*
- 12. Always speak cheerfully.**  
*Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing.*
- 13. Do not speak with harsh words or a harsh tone.**  
*Ephesians 4:29a Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths.*
- 14. When you are given a job to do, work hard.**  
*Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..*
- 15. Control your anger and frustration.**  
*James 1:19b Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*
- 16. Do not take revenge when you've been wronged. Get help from a parent.**  
*Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*
- 17. Don't talk back.**  
*Proverbs 18:13 He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame.*
- 18. Have a happy heart.**  
*Proverbs 15:30a A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.*
- 19. Forgive others.**  
*Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*
- 20. Accept discipline with a good heart.**  
*Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.*

From Steve and Kathleen Nelson.



## *25 Character Areas*

### **Not quick tempered vs. easily angered**

Do you get angry at other drivers, your spouse or your children? Do others around you notice this anger displayed, or do you immediately control it? Are you frequently using a raised voice with your children? Proverbs 14:17, 29; Matthew 5:22; Ephesians 4:26,31; Colossians 3:8; James 1:19,20

### **Family man / woman**

Do other people want a marriage like yours, and/or children like yours? Are your children a joy to be around? Are you confident that your kids will turn out well? Do your spouse and kids enjoy being around you? Deuteronomy 6:6,7; Proverbs 19:18; 22:6; 29:17; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 3:2-7,12; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 3:1-7

### **Committed, sacrificed life**

Are you determined to do what God wants, even if it seems like other paths seem easier or more fulfilling? Is God frequently on the back burner, while other things like school, work, or even recreation get most of the attention? Are you determined to follow God, even if no one else around you will? Mark 12:30; Matthew 6:33; 16:24; Luke 14:25-33

### **Content vs. covetous**

To you tend to buy lots of things that you can't afford (i.e. on credit)? Are you happy with having things that are less than the best? Exodus 20:17; Philippians 4:11,12; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5

### **Diligent vs. lazy**

Do you devote hours of time to entertainment and recreation while neglecting your studies, work, home, or relationship with God? Proverbs 12:24,27; 13:4; 14:23; 28:19,20; Colossians 3:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:9-12

### **Eternally minded**

Does the thought of heaven and eternity bring you hope? Is the fear of hardship or loss in this life overwhelming? Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 14:32; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; 15:19; Colossians 1:5; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:13

### **Man or woman of faith (vs. fearful)**

Are you confident of your standing with God? Is your perception of your relationship with God based on your feelings, or on what the Bible says? Are you willing to step into roles that you feel ill equipped for? Do you use your gifts and talents when opportunities arise? How's your prayer life? Romans 14:23b; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:6b; Hebrews 11; James 2:26

### **Faithful vs. unfaithful**

Are you careful to fulfill your responsibilities with even the small things? Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:10,11

### **Forgiving**

Do you have bad feelings towards people that have harmed you in the past? Are you bitter or do you have a grudge against anyone? Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 6:12; 18:21-22; Mark 11:25; Luke 6:37b; Luke 23:34a; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

### **Gentle vs. violent or overbearing**

Would people characterize you as being harsh or overbearing? Do you occasionally "let people have it" (verbally or physically) because they've "got it coming"? 1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; Galatians 5:22,23; Colossians 3:12

### **Giving, generous**

Do you regularly give to the Lord and to those in need? Do you give with a cheerful heart? Are you a good tipper? Do you see money as something that needs to be carefully managed and controlled, or more like a tool that you can use to do good? Matthew 6:24-33; Luke 16:9-15; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:7-9; 9:6-8; 1 Timothy 6:18

### **Honest vs. deceitful**

Do you occasionally "bend the rules" for your own gain? Do you give people answers that are half-truths or that are "legally correct"? Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 4:24; 10:9; 11:3; 12:17,20; 1 Peter 2:1

### **Humble vs. proud**

Are you constantly worried about what other people think of you? Is it important that your accomplishments are recognized? Can you gracefully accept correction or criticism? Do you act in ways that promote yourself instead of God or others?

Prov 22:4; 29:23; Micah 6:8; Matt 18:4; Luke 14:10; Rom 12:3; Col 3:12; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5

### **Joyful**

Do you grumble and complain a lot? Do you enjoy praising God?

Romans 12:12; 2 Corinthians 6:10; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 2:14; 4:4; 1 Thess 5:16

### **Loving**

Do you frequently think about what would be good or helpful for other people? Do you try to put yourself in other people's shoes? Do you make a conscious effort to tell or show others that you love them?

Matthew 22:39; John 13:35; 15:12,13; Romans 12:9; 1 Corin 13; Gal 5:22; Col 3:12; 1 Timothy 6:11; Titus 2:2; Heb 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:5-8; 1 John 3:16

### **Obedient**

Are you more concerned with discovering truth, than obeying the truth that you already know? If something is blatantly clear in the Bible, will you accept it even if it is a hard teaching? Are you known more for your actions, or your stances on different issues?

John 14:15,21,23-24; 1 Corinthians 7:19; 1 John 5:2; James 1:22

### **Patient and enduring**

Are you willing to wait for God's timing, or do you try to speed it along? Have you struggled with questions for God that remain unresolved for years? Do you have a pattern of continually switching majors, jobs, or churches? Are you easily overwhelmed, tired, or discouraged to the point that you start dropping the ball in some of your high priority areas?

Rom 5:3,4; Gal 6:9; 2 Thes 3:13; Heb 12:1-3; James 1:3,4; James 5:10,11; 2 Peter 1:5-8

### **Self controlled vs. indulgent**

Can you say "no" to yourself in areas of your life that you would like to change? Are there areas in your life that control you, rather than you controlling them?

Proverbs 25:28; Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Timothy 3:2-7; 2 Timothy 1:7; Titus 1:6-9; 2:2; 2:6; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8; 2 Peter 1:5-8

### **Unselfish vs. selfish**

Will you refrain from doing things that are not wrong, but that might be hard for others? Do you think of ways to serve others and not do them because it is inconvenient for you?

Matt 16:25; Rom 12:17; 14:21; 1 Cor 10:24; 13:5; 2 Cor 8:21; Phil 2:3,4

### **Serving**

Do you see it as a burden to serve others, or as a joy? Do you frequently serve in ways which provide no reward?

Matt 20:28; Mark 10:43-45; John 13:14-16; Rom 12:11; 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Cor 4:5; Gal 5:13; 6:9-10; Eph 2:13; 4:16; 6:7,8; Phil 2:3-7,20-21; Col 3:23; 1 Peter 2:16; 4:10,11

### **Sexually pure**

Do you see the opposite sex as objects or people? Do you look at or listen to material that no one else knows about? When you have improper thoughts, do you feed them, or starve them?

Proverbs 4:25; 27:20; Job 31:1; Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 13:13,14; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Ephesians 4:19; 5:3,4; Colossians 3:5-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; James 1:13-15; 1 Peter 4:3-5; 1 John 2:15-17

### **Controlled speech**

Do you say things about people that you would never say if they were listening? Are the things that you talk about typically helpful or building for your hearers?

Proverbs 10:19; 17:27; 21:23; 29:20; Ephesians 4:29; 5:4; Colossians 3:8; 4:6; James 1:19,26

### **Teachable vs. unresponsive**

Are you eager to learn from others and the Bible? Is it more important to you to be right, or to look right?

Proverbs 22:17; Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 12:7; 13:17

### **Unified with others vs. divisive**

Are you supportive of the direction of your leaders? If you disagree with the direction a leader is going, do you tell the leader, or do you tell the followers?

John 17:23; Acts 4:32a; Romans 12:5; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:25; Eph 4:3,16; Phil 2:1,2; Col 2:2a; Heb 10:23-25

### **Upright, righteous**

Are you more focused on what is honoring to God than on what you can get away with?

Rom 12:17; 2 Cor 8:21; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Tim 6:11; 1 Peter 1:14,15; 2 Peter 1:5-8; 3:14

*Love*





## *Love: Notes*

Parents are to do for their children what God does for us—be the \_\_\_\_\_ for unconditional acceptance and value.

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For Christ's love \_\_\_\_\_ us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. NIV*

LET'S LOOK AT THOSE TWO WORDS CAREFULLY.

Webster's **acceptance** - to receive \_\_\_\_\_, worthy of \_\_\_\_\_, adequate, satisfactory, approval, to admit into a group or place, to understand as having a specific meaning

**Webster's value** - worth in \_\_\_\_\_ or usefulness to the possessor, to regard highly, highly \_\_\_\_\_, to estimate or appraise the worth of something,

**We are more to God than \_\_\_\_\_**

Regardless of where we are in life we can be certain that God is for us.

*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, Christ died for us. NIV*

*Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ \_\_\_\_\_ we were dead in transgressions... NIV*

When a child truly believes he has a value that is more than his actions or attributes, he has a foundation for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

When your child believes that you value him or her this way, you have laid a foundation to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your child.

Acceptance and value are communicated through our \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

**In our relationship with our children, we must NOT:**

**Value them by the standards the \_\_\_\_\_ does:**

Attractiveness

Athletics

Academics

Achievement

*1 John 4:5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world... NIV*

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ them to other kids?

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ different kids?

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ your kids? (You're so stupid, naughty, etc...)

Discussion Question: Did your parents ever label you, either positive or negative? And what has been the impact of that label?

Do you \_\_\_\_\_ gift areas? (You're so smart, pretty, etc...)

**In our relationship with our children we must NOT:  
Try to change them by  
\_\_\_\_\_ them**

A person who senses \_\_\_\_\_ closes himself to that \_\_\_\_\_; a person who senses \_\_\_\_\_ opens himself to that influence.

**In our relationship with our children we must NOT:**

Value one child \_\_\_\_\_ -

Example of Jacob and Joseph (Genesis 37:3)

*1 Timothy 5:21 ...do nothing out of favoritism. NIV*

*Romans 2:11 "For God does not show favoritism." NIV*

Would your children say you have a favorite child?

PRACTICALS OF \_\_\_\_\_ :

Develop your \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ time leads to time.

\_\_\_\_\_ time happens somewhere along the way.

When there is not quality of time,  
" \_\_\_\_\_ " in parenting tend to have a  
greater impact.

Rules without relationship = \_\_\_\_\_.

Relationship without rules/ correction =  
\_\_\_\_\_

The stronger the \_\_\_\_\_ the more  
\_\_\_\_\_ you can give.

You can't just hope to get their heart. Reach out and grab it.

-Different \_\_\_\_\_ for each individual child

Give your kids YOUR \_\_\_\_\_.

*Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me your heart NIV*

"Maybe the first half of that favorite verse should read, 'I  
will give you my heart first, now give me your heart, my son.'" -  
Rick Whitney (p. 205)

A challenging question: Do your kids really have your heart, or  
do they just have your time and your energy?

**You can be their \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
\_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus called us friends!

*John 15:14-15 You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. NIV*

Mommies, love is not \_\_\_\_\_.

PRACTICALS OF \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE

**Communicate complete \_\_\_\_\_ to your kids.**

*Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." NIV*

Communicate \_\_\_\_\_ - This is my son

Communicate \_\_\_\_\_ - whom I love  
(unconditionally)

Communicate \_\_\_\_\_ - I am well  
pleased

\_\_\_\_\_ **your kids you \_\_\_\_\_ them.**

Everyday: a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_,  
a \_\_\_\_\_.

Excerpt from "The Blessing" by Gary Smalley and John Trent (pg. 25) - "In many homes today, words of love and acceptance are seldom heard. A tragic

misconception parents in these homes share is that simply being present communicates the blessing (love). Nothing can be further from the truth. A blessing becomes so only when it is spoken.

For a child in search of the blessing, *the major thing silence communicates is confusion*. Children who are left to fill in the blanks when it comes to what their parents think about them will often fail the test when it comes to feeling valuable and secure. Spoken words at least give the hearer an indication that he or she is worthy of attention.

Many adults we see in counseling interpret their parents' silence as...they feel as though they are "third string" children to their parents. Their parents may have provided a roof over their heads (or even a Porsche to drive), but without spoken words of blessing, they are left unsure of their personal worth and acceptance.

"But I don't yell at my children or cut them down like some parents," some may say. Unfortunately, even a lack of negative words does not translate into a spoken blessing. Good intentions aside, good words are necessary to provide genuine acceptance.

**Don't \_\_\_\_\_ at your kids.**

*Slow to \_\_\_\_\_.*

*James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,<sup>20</sup> for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. NIV*

*Proverbs 17:27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.*

\_\_\_\_\_ in love

*Psalms 86:15 But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. NIV*

Are you abounding in \_\_\_\_\_ and slow to \_\_\_\_\_, or slow to anger and abounding in love?

\_\_\_\_\_ as much as you correct.

*Proverbs 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. <sup>2</sup>The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. NIV*

*Proverbs 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. NIV*

It's all in the wording.

***A tip:***

Constant discouragement *may be* a warning sign that something is \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Colossians 3:20-21 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

Is the bar is too \_\_\_\_\_?



Is the bar too low?

Does the bar \_\_\_\_\_ everyday?

Speak to them in a \_\_\_\_\_ that you would use in front of others.

**Treat them as you would if someone else were**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. NIV

The Ultimate Love:

I John 3: 16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ his life for us, and we ought also to \_\_\_\_\_ our life for others."

Discussion Question: *How* did Jesus lay down His life for us?

Do you love your kids?

Have you laid down your life for them?

John 15: 12, 13 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus said "my command", not my \_\_\_\_\_.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ us to love our children, love our husbands AS  
HE HAS LOVED US!"

A very challenging question:  
Do you love your kids as Jesus loves you?

## **Love**

### **Thoughtful Questions**

From your childhood, what is one of your fondest memories with one or both of your parents?

Do you think you tend to be too strict or too soft on your kids? Which do you think is more dangerous?

What are some good ways to communicate love to your kids? When you were a kid, what communicated love to you?

How do you think your parents' expressions of love and strictness affected you? How do you think your upbringing affects your tendencies in this area?

What would you like to do differently in this area?



## *Balance Correction and Positive Input*

*1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. NIV*

I was once taught that you should praise someone more than you correct him. I don't know if that is the perfect balance, but I think it is valuable to think through that there is a need for balance and to figure out what that looks like for your own family.

I remember a regional manager that I had when I worked as a cook in a restaurant. He was a perfectionist to the extreme. Nothing was ever done to his satisfaction. It seemed as if there was no way to win. Nothing was ever done fast enough or well enough. Even when I would stay late to help he'd be upset that I was costing the company overtime. There was just no way to win. He drove me crazy. But every time I finished a shift he call to me from the office as I was leaving, "Steve, come here." I'd poke my head into his office and he'd always give me a verbal pat on the back by looking me in the eye and saying something like, "You did a good job today." It's probably the only thing that kept me from quitting. His "love" expressed at the end of the day covered up a multitude of his "sins".

In parenting, kids need constant correction. That means they probably need constant affirmation as well. A hug, a smile, a wink, a tease, a tickle and a frequent "I love you" goes a long ways. If they feel we are constantly riding them they will become discouraged. If we are constantly reaffirming them and not correcting them, they will become self centered. A good healthy dose of correction and affirmation will do wonders for them.

—Steve Nelson

## *Tough Love*

Much has been said about "tough love" for misbehaving children.

Most of America's populace thinks it very improper to spank children, so I have tried other methods to control Jerry when he has one of "those moments."

One that I found very effective is for me to just take him for a car ride and talk to him. He usually calms down and stops misbehaving after our little car ride together. I've included a photo one of our sessions, in case you would like to use the technique.

Just turn this page over...



*Source unknown. Widely distributed e-mail joke.*

## *Monkey Love (Motherless Mothers)*

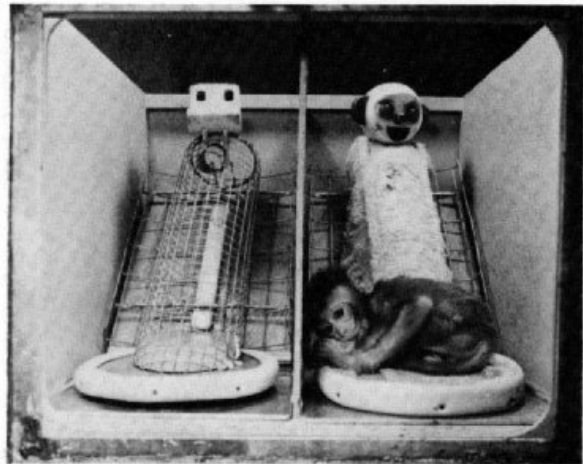
In the sixties and seventies Harry Harlow and his associates conducted experiments on rhesus monkeys. The basic idea of the experiment was to separate an infant monkey from its mother and then see what it would attach to. The baby monkeys were provided with two different artificial mommies. One “mommy” was made of wood and chicken-wire. This first “mommy” also had a bottle attached for feeding. The second “mommy” was also artificial, did not have a feeding bottle, and was covered in a soft comforting cloth.

The experiment showed that even though the first mommy provided food, the monkeys preferred the second mommy by far, and except for feeding time, would spend all their time with her. From the experiment, one could conclude that babies prefer nurture over provision, or something along those lines.

The experiment also had some interesting side effects. Because the babies essentially grew up motherless, they themselves struggled when they became mothers. These motherless mothers took two different forms. About half of the motherless mothers were indifferent toward their children. They did not harm them, but neither did they nurse or comfort them. They would carry them awkwardly and would not protect them. The second half of the motherless monkeys also exhibited abnormal behavior. They would hit, bite, claw at, or jump on their children—often to the point of killing them.

Since this is an experiment on animals and not humans, we should be careful not to go too far in paralleling monkey parenting and human parenting. However, it might also be good to use this as a reminder of some principles that we already know to be true.

- 1) What you do (or don't do) as a parent can profoundly impact your children.
- 2) Jesus said that the greatest commands were to love God and to love others. Love is foundational in what God wants. As parents we model love for our children. What they see modeled is what they will tend to imitate.
- 3) What example of love were you given as a child by your parents? If you were not loved adequately, you may have a standard of love and affection that is far below what your child needs. If so, you'll need to love at a level that may seem overly loving to you, just to be at what would be a normal standard of love for most. With the Lord's help, we are all capable of adequately loving our children.



Above all, love each other deeply.  
(1 Peter 4:8a NIV)

- Steve Nelson





# *Discipline*



## *Discipline - Notes*

(Recommended reading: What the Bible says about Child Training by J. Richard Fugate)

(Recommended reading: Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp)

"Parents must act as the \_\_\_\_\_ control over a child while he is developing his own \_\_\_\_\_ controls. The parents' role is not to remain as the child's control for the rest of his life, but *gradually* to work themselves out of this job."

Warning:

### **The Balance**

Disciplining without love is as \_\_\_\_\_ as loving without discipline. Biblical parenting calls for a \_\_\_\_\_ - the presence of \_\_\_\_\_ love and discipline regularly, daily expressed.

1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. NIV

In parenting, kids need constant \_\_\_\_\_.

That means they probably need constant \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

If they feel we are constantly correcting them they will become \_\_\_\_\_.

If we are constantly reaffirming them and not correcting them, they will become \_\_\_\_\_.

A good healthy dose of correction and affirmation will do wonders for them.

**Discipline Is a form of \_\_\_\_\_**

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

James Dobson - Discipline and love are not antithetical: one is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the other.

**Building personal \_\_\_\_\_ -**

*James Dobson - The parent must convince himself that discipline is not something he \_\_\_\_\_ to the child; it is something he does \_\_\_\_\_ the child.*

We must go on convictions and not \_\_\_\_\_.

**TAKE A MINUTE:** At this point in time, right now, if you were talking to a girl friend that was really doubting whether spanking worked, how \_\_\_\_\_ could you share with her that part of God's calling on parents includes spanking?  
1-10 \_\_\_\_\_ (not a right answer here 😊.)

**A challenging question:** Are you always looking.....?

Is this a **red flag** that you are not totally sold on what you are doing?

Modeling God's Heart toward us:

Hebrews 12:5-11

And you have forgotten that word of

\_\_\_\_\_ that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he \_\_\_\_\_, and he punishes everyone he \_\_\_\_\_ as a son."

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and

everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we \_\_\_\_\_ them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for those who have been trained by it.

An important assessment before we go any further:  
If your husband is not convinced:

**Discipline is \_\_\_\_\_ ideas - not mine.**

Don't do it because I think it is a good idea.

Do it \_\_\_\_\_ the bible says you should and only then.

*Verse by verse:*

Prov. 3:11, 12 "My son, do not despise the LORD'S discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in."

Prov. 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is \_\_\_\_\_."

Prov. 13:24 "He who spares the rod \_\_\_\_\_ his son, but he who loves him is \_\_\_\_\_ to discipline him."

Prov. 15:10 "Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die."

Prov. 19:18 "Discipline your son, for in that there is \_\_\_\_\_; do not be a \_\_\_\_\_ party to his death."

Prov. 22:15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but \_\_\_\_\_ of discipline will drive it far from him."

Prov. 23:13, 14 "Do not \_\_\_\_\_ discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death."

Prov. 29:15 "The rod of correction imparts \_\_\_\_\_, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother."

Prov. 29:17 "Discipline your son, and he will give you \_\_\_\_\_; he will bring \_\_\_\_\_ to your soul."

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is \_\_\_\_\_. Honor your father and mother..."

Colossians 3:20, 21 "Children, obey your parents in \_\_\_\_\_, for this pleases the Lord."

Revelation 3:19 "Those whom I love I rebuke and \_\_\_\_\_. So be earnest, and repent."

### **Strict vrs. Harsh -**

You can be strict and do it \_\_\_\_\_.

You can be strict without using \_\_\_\_\_ words.

You can be strict without using \_\_\_\_\_ words.

You can be strict without raising your voice and \_\_\_\_\_ at them.

Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. NIV

### **Keep them in the Barrel**

Proverbs 15:10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.

\_\_\_\_\_ disciplining on the part of the mother:

#1. Obedience/ disobedience of a \_\_\_\_\_ -

"She does it because she loves me."

When we discipline inconsistently (one day we are strict, the next day we are indifferent), then we are using discipline to teach our kids to cater to our \_\_\_\_\_.

This is very \_\_\_\_\_ and refutes our teaching them that we, their mothers, are also children of God and we are obeying God, so they should be too.

**#2. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ -**

You have to make decisions on the spot -

"How is the child doing?

What does the child need?

How yielded is the child?

Should something different happen here?

What can I say to make him/ her understand? "

Hebrews 12:10 "Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best: but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness."

**#3. Use \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Samuel 3:13 For I told [Eli] that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

**#4. \_\_\_\_\_**

1 Kings 1:5-6 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. <sup>6</sup>(His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

**#5. We must be willing to be i \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ the opportunity, love them enough to do what is**  
**best for them, not what is best for us.**

Mark 10:13-16 "People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to the, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ....And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

**#6. Role of \_\_\_\_\_ -**  
There is a \_\_\_\_\_ dimension to this.  
It is not just an action.  
God is involved.  
He is acting on our \_\_\_\_\_ as we, the mothers,  
\_\_\_\_\_ HIM in this.

### Specifics of Discipline:

**#1. Age of child depends -** we use other techniques, but not as a  
\_\_\_\_\_ for spanking.

- cannot discipline confidently unless you are sure they \_\_\_\_\_
  
- cannot discipline confidently unless you are sure they are blatantly \_\_\_\_\_
  
- The littler the child the more necessity to use \_\_\_\_\_, verbal, \_\_\_\_\_ words, with much \_\_\_\_\_.

**#2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the child depends -**

In discipline remember that your primary goal is to change the \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately



you can't see the heart, so you need to discipline any action that \_\_\_\_\_ a bad heart.

Doing so will change the heart.

**#3. Obey the \_\_\_\_\_ of your voice -**

cheerfully, quickly, completely

specific \_\_\_\_\_:

**#4. Determine "punishable behavior"**

"Premeditated Parenting"

House Rules handout

Example:

Teaching Kids How to Relate to Siblings and Peers

Mark 12:31 The second [greatest command] is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." NIV

Discipline for the things that will destroy your children -

There are lots of people who have no self-control—people who steal, kill, rob, rape, embezzle, cheat, and things of that sort. They came to a life changing decision, a crossroads, and they made the wrong choice. For most of them, they've made that wrong choice time after time. Many of them are dead—not physically, but spiritually.

(Remember: This is not just about getting the behavior you desire as a parent. This is spiritual work!)

## #5. Steps of Discipline:

2 Corinthians 2:6-11 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. <sup>7</sup>Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

Step #1:

Step #2:

Step #3:

Step #4:

## #6. Always discipline in love - never in \_\_\_\_\_ -

Routine of discipline -

"When the rod is used \_\_\_\_\_ for the slightest disobedience, it is never associated with anger, displeasure or rejection because the parent (disciplines) the child with a patient loving spirit in obedience to God."

**Discipline is not an angry reaction or a form of rejection if done \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Spanking is controlled, abuse is out of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Spanking is done in love, abuse out of \_\_\_\_\_.

Calling spanking child abuse is like calling surgeons slashers. Sure they cut the body, but they do it because it needs to be done.

**#7. Only spank on the \_\_\_\_\_**

Proverbs 10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,  
but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.  
NIV

Proverbs 14:3 A fool's talk brings a rod to his back,  
but the lips of the wise protect them.  
NIV

exceptions: baby hand spanking

**#8. Always use another \_\_\_\_\_ -**

Not the \_\_\_\_\_ -

Proverbs 22:15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod  
of discipline will drive it far from him."

**#9. Always discipline in \_\_\_\_\_ -**

Matt. 18:15a "If your brother sins against you, go and show  
him his fault, just between the two of you."

**#10. Discipline \_\_\_\_\_ -**

Eccl. 8:11 "When the sentence for a crime is not quickly  
carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes  
to do wrong."

**#11. \_\_\_\_\_ needs to be a part of discipline.**

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later  
on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who  
have been trained by it.

A concern: Does spanking breed violence? \_\_\_\_\_ does not seem to have that concern.

Abuse, neglect, and lack of love seem to breed \_\_\_\_\_.

**#12. \_\_\_\_\_ must always be the end result. -**

Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

Proverbs 10:17 People who accept correction are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore it will lead others astray.  
NLT

## Scriptures on Parenting and Discipline

Genesis 8:21 The LORD...said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood..."

Deut 4:9-10 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them...

"Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children."

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup>Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup>Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

1 Samuel 3:13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

2 Samuel 7:14 I [God,] will be [Solomon's] father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.

1 Kings 1:5-6 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. <sup>6</sup>(His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?") He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. <sup>9</sup>They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not

resent his rebuke, <sup>12</sup>because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 6:23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Proverbs 15:10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die.

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 20:30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly. KJV

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup>Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong. (*Discipline quickly*)

Matthew 18:15a "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault,

just between the two of you." (*Do privately*)

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>"Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- <sup>3</sup>that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20-21 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

1 Timothy 3:4,5 [An overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

1 Timothy 3:12 A deacon must...manage his children and his household well.

Titus 1:6 An elder must be blameless... a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Hebrews 12:5-11 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." <sup>7</sup>Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup>Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup>Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.



## *Discipline, Instruction, and Affection*

So what's on my mind? Three things. **Discipline, Instruction and Affection.** But before I write any more, I would like to take a *time-out* and ask you for your careful attention. I will start with an admission.

I admit that I am not a theologian. (*stop laughing.*) And if I were to write several pages on a particular theological position, most of you that know me would write me off. You would probably smile or act attentive, but either way, I would not be taken seriously. And rightly so because I am not a theologian. In that arena, *I know not whereof I speak.* But when it comes to raising kids, I know what I am talking about, guys.

I want to say something else—Ever notice how our media sarcastically accuses we Christians of being small-minded individuals who like our answers delivered in small, simple doses? Although years ago we bridled at their condescending attitude, today I think it has affected our thinking. In a kind of pendulum swing, we now often resist simple instruction. Please don't do this with me, men. Not when it comes to parenting.

Brothers, I know what I am talking about. And I would ask you to bear with me when I again take a little time to write about raising our kids.

Just a couple more thoughts before I write on these three areas. Humor me.

We live in a society that is hyper-introspective. It seems like we always tend to glorify the individual and have unconsciously, but tacitly agreed that every individual is so unique that it is almost impossible to bring answers from one person's experience to bear on another person's life and family. We are so introspective that we can easily become convinced that the solutions we need are not found in our neighbor's experience. Our Christianity here in America has gone along with our society and glorifies the individual. From this "isolated" perspective we then look for answers but accept them only if they are complicated and specifically tailored to our individual selves. Any other kind of solution that might be of a more general nature, is looked down on.

But after talking to literally hundreds of couples in the last few months, I am more convinced than I have ever been, that *our kids need more discipline, more instruction and more affection than we ever imagined.* Most of what I usually offer parents is encouragement along these lines.

In reading the Bible for over twenty-five years, I have not noticed much language that elevates individual wants or desires. In book after book, God speaks to all men with general, simple, answers that He wants and expects everyone to embrace. Why? Because His answers work for all of us. In our parenting, I wish more of us adults would believe, deep down in our hearts, that His answers, though simple and general in nature – truly work, if applied!

An example. As most of you know, in the summer my kids and I enjoy raising market lambs and competing at the county fair. It is a hobby that I enjoy a lot and the kids take pride in. I buy lambs once in awhile from a neighbor. I buy lambs at sales. Often they are "left-over" lambs. If I buy a lamb at a sale, it is never the top five or ten lambs, but always a cheaper lamb, down the line. And I raise a few lambs. Sometimes I get a cull lamb from one of my brothers. But for

over twelve years, every summer, up against usually around 200 lambs from across the county, we win an unfair share of classes and championships, year after year. Why? I don't start off with the best genetics. Oftentimes I buy a lamb, knowing that an even better lamb from that same farm has been sold and will show up at the county fair – just to see how I do. And we beat them, year after year. We have more trophies, belt buckles and ribbons than we know what to do with. Many, many times I have seen the higher priced lambs not be fed and raised by the neighbors in the right way. They were actually slowed down long before they show up at our county fair. Why?

**It is how you raise them!** We apply the right technique with all of our show string and it never fails to turn out the right results. If we can do that with sheep, what can we do with children that are made in the image of God?

*(Obviously, I am trying to take away any objections you might have, before I get into my three concerns, and since you are all pastors, you know what I am trying to do, anyway, so again, be patient.) ☺*

Here's another example. A couple of days ago Michael and I were watching a video on the spirit and drive that Dan Gable brought to his coaching. In that short video a fellow coach, who himself had won a number of NCAA championships, said with respect and honor, that, "*When Dan Gable lays his hands on you, you are touched by grace.*" I don't want to discuss Dan Gable's faith or lifestyle. All that fellow coach was trying to say was the obvious. That Dan Gable knew what he was talking about when he told wrestlers how to train and compete.

Why did he have such an incredible string of championships there at the University of Iowa? If you followed Iowa wrestling in the 80's and early 90's, you knew that he did not always get the best high school wrestlers. He got his share, but many incredible high school champions went to any one of over 20 other excellent programs across the country. But Gable, year-in and year-out, got more out of his kids because he knew what he was talking about.

**We have to believe that we can learn vital, life-changing truths from each other.** That we are not so highly individualized that our lot in life is mostly unique.

Or that the relationship issues and problems that come up in our families are beyond solution. Or that solutions can not be simple.

Often I have felt self-conscious and have kind of resented being asked to teach on parenting, over and over. Doesn't everyone of us care about our children and our parenting? Of course we do. All of us want to win with the kids. All of us have received insight and wisdom from God as parents and are working hard with our children, whether we have one or many. "So why Rick, do you talk about parenting so often?" Since we all care and we all teach in this arena, who am I to strongly state my own opinions? Well, I'm just one dad talking to another.

I'm just a fellow dad, but guys, trust me in this; **We need more discipline, more instruction and more affection in our parenting.** And I see it over and over, everywhere I go.



Have you ever laughed (hopefully just inwardly) at the mom who says that with her little boy, who is all of two years old; that she has tried spanking and it did not work? Well, trust me also in this, guys. Discipline, instruction, and affection works. If they are twelve or sixteen, they need just bigger and bigger helpings of these three ingredients.

First, **Discipline**. What do I mean by discipline? **“No!” is what I mean.** There is power in “No.” There is wisdom and strength in believing in the “No’s.” The Bible is filled with “No’s.” They are general, simple and easily understood. And God gives them to us in big doses, page after page. Eight out of the ten commandments are “No.” From the first chapter to the last, God’s Word is filled with all kinds of “No’s.” God is simple and strong in this method and way of helping us. He is repetitive in teaching us over and over, what not to do.

Often we might think that the “No’s” of the Bible are just not that helpful anymore. If we are tempted to think this, then we are the ones in error. The first thing we teach our children always involves the concept of “No” and I dare say that much of our work as they get older, still involves discipline and the discipline of “No.”

Have you ever wondered whether too many “No’s” will hurt our self-image? God doesn’t seem to worry about it. When we disregard the “No’s” in life, that is when we are hurt. It is rebellion against rule and law, that damages us. And why are we always so concerned about a healthy self-image? Our prisons are filled with men who have strong self-images. Here in Colorado a study done by the University found that some of the strongest self-image scores, within our state, were found at our Canyon City State Penitentiary.

God knows that true and healthy self-confidence comes from obedience. We need more discipline and more obedience from our teens. To see this happen, we need to “*lower the boom,*” over and over. We cannot “*spare for their crying,*” whether they are three or thirteen. We usually should **not** yield to them and their wants. Many of their wants will often only dissipate their life. “No” is good. There is nothing wrong or old-fashioned about “No.”

One of the biggest “No’s” we will be tested on with our youth is whether we will release them to their peers, when we should not. I don’t know how many times I have talked to parents who somehow wish they could draw their kids back from their peer relationships, but are now at their wits ends as to how to do it. Still, it is paramount that they reclaim their teen’s loyalties.

It would have been better if they had never let them loose so quickly in the first place. If our sons and daughters **ever** are more loyal to their friends than to their parents and sibs, then we need to change things, yesterday if possible. And surely we must recapture their hearts.

You men know me. I do not believe in running away from the world. I believe in letting our kids go out and impact this world. And I believe my kids have and are doing this, in college as well as high school. We are not afraid of this world, nor should our kids ever pick up fear from any one of us.

But if they are our kids, so to speak, then we need to ask ourself whether they are still ours, or whether they are “*owned*” by others?

My personal bottom line when it comes to the discipline I am bringing to my children, is this, “*Does what I am attempting to do in my standards of discipline,*

*impress fellow Christians and impress this world I am attempting to reach?” “Is my discipline healthy and right and filled with common sense and is it attractive to the lost?”*

This doesn't mean that the world will agree with my methods. *“But do they want what I have?” “Does the discipline that I seek to instill in my kids lead to accomplishment?” “And are the accomplishments attractive for the Gospel?”*

Secondly, we need more **Instruction**. Please don't say to yourself, “They know it already. They know the answers, they already know what I am trying to tell them, Rick.” **They don't know it, if they don't do it!** And if they aren't practicing what you are talking about, as a part of their habit in life, they don't really know the instruction. It is not part of their makeup.

If your neighbor said, “I know that already,” but they had not shown much if any fruit, you wouldn't necessarily believe that they really knew what you were talking about. You would keep trying to gently instruct them as long as they would listen. Usually with neighbors we lose the audience, but if they kept coming back for instruction, we would keep speaking, as winsomely as possible, but we would keep speaking.

With our children we have the opportunity to keep speaking. And I would encourage all of us to keep instructing, teaching, speaking, reading to and helping them, until we see the fruit we are looking for. Our kids don't really have it until they speak it, until it is on their lips.

If they aren't patient, they just aren't patient, and they don't really know what the Bible has to say about the subject. If they can't put on Christ and smile with their countenance, they really don't know what the Bible has to say about being filled. We need to keep instructing.

We must keep instructing in the little things, in the simple things as well as in the bigger issues. But most of our instruction will be on the little things. Life is made up of hundreds and thousands of little things. I was blessed by Mark Darling making “a mountain out of a molehill” in instructing his boy to iron the pants. It was probably unpleasant, it was probably a confrontation. It could have seemed petty, to both the son and to Mark, but our brother kept instructing. Because we've got to win when we instruct, in every situation, hour by hour, day by day. We can't just throw it out and say to ourselves, “Well, at least I told them what to do.” **We need to tell them what to do, till they do it!** And not rest, until they *receive it. (by this I mean, that they accept it in their heart and in their actions)*

In most instruction there is usually some element of discipline woven in, but that's okay. Keep instructing them and telling them what to do and what not to do, over and over, until they do it on their own.

Again my bottom line in evaluating my instruction is, *“Whether it is winsome for the Gospel and a good example to the lost.” “Would my instruction prove attractive to the lost?” “Would they want it, at least want the fruit?” “The ways of the Lord are right,”* and even the lost often appreciate God's truth and its results at this basic level.

Lastly, we need more **Affection**. *(After reading these thoughts on discipline and instruction, do you believe that I'm just throwing this in? That I really don't*

*appreciate affection and enjoy it?)*

**I do show affection! Every day with every child.** Don't let our sons and daughters grow up and begin to grow apart from our affection. I was reminded and blessed again by Dennis Clark in Atlanta. ***“Every day, a look, a word, a touch.”*** We have practiced this kind of affection for decades. And just as easily as we naturally hugged them when they were two years old, we need to hug them and tickle them and squeeze them and wrap our arms around them when they are twelve and sixteen and twenty-two. Although I am reserved in public, believe me on this - we are very affectionate in our home. It is a shame when Dad's are estranged from sons and daughters and the child estranged from us. Moms need to keep hugging sons and daughters and so too must we.

Once again our society has a hard time understanding and thinking we can couple discipline, instruction and affection. So they caricaturize Christian men as either dour, black-robed, stern, prophets (or) easy-going, hip, *“I'm okay, you're okay,”* modern dads who are soft. But never both.

God demands that fathers be both. Our families need it. Black and white and strong at times, as well as fun-loving. Stern as well as playful. Able to *“read them the riot act,”* and kiss them good night. Many, many parents are not affectionate enough.

(It is ironic that if we do not show affection, often we compensate or kinda pendulum swing and wind up being too permissive later on.)

The wise dad asks and prays for his child's heart. But the even wiser dad prays for it, and then reaches out and grabs it!

On this last point – *Our affection as parents will be very attractive to the lost. Here they will be drawn to our methods as well as our fruit. If you want to impact this world, then bring the world into our homes and show them our affection.*

The warmth in my family has won more hearts than anything else I have ever said or done.

This is what I have been talking about, for almost many years now, at my parenting conferences. This is what I'll be sharing this year at our National Pastor's Conference. I know these three tools work.

Almost every week I talk with parents who are struggling and my first prayer is that they'll have heart enough to receive what I am saying and do it. I know that if they humble themselves before the Lord and do exactly what God impresses on their heart, they will succeed. This is my confidence, brothers.

Rick Whitney  
Commerce City, CO  
GCNWDads.com

“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”  
- Proverbs 22:6



## *Continued Disobedience*

Question: Our 22 month old is still in a crib. She has been taught not to climb out, but jumping in her crib or on her sisters bed is a problem. Last week I spanked her three times in a row for jumping on her sisters bed. Each time she jumped was a deliberate disobedient act in my presence to the directive just given which as "no jump." She actually disobeyed four times in a row but I was not going to spank her again, instead I put in her in her crib for a bit. This is a very smart toddler and I know she understands what I tell her. She is very verbal and is able to communicate in three to six word sentences. Should I have spanked her a fourth time or spanked harder?

Response: It is difficult to address spanking because we don't know exactly what that looks like in different people's homes. That said, most of the questions people with little ones have seem to deal with discipline, and I think it is important to address some practical matters of discipline.

First of all, let me say this. You and your husband are in the best position to evaluate the situation. In Hebrews 12:10 it says that "our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best." In the same way, you will need to discipline your child as you think best. Study the Word, get godly counsel, discuss the situation with your spouse, and try to follow God's direction to the best of your ability. That is faith lived out in real life! God will bless that. I'm saying that just to stress that you shouldn't do something just because Kathleen and I do it, or because some author says it, but make sure that what you do is based on your own conviction.

I'd be hesitant to even address this question without going into several pages of background if you were not already grounded in some of the basics of discipline. (If someone is reading this and is not familiar with spanking, I'd encourage you to study out this issue more before implementing it. Maybe this e-mail can just serve to get you to start chewing on this topic a little.) Let me review a few of the important basics:

- 1) Spanking is biblical. (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15)
- 2) Discipline is loving. (Proverbs 3:11,12; 13:24; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19)
- 3) Make sure your instruction is clear and simple. "No jump" is nice and clear. A child who communicates in 3 to six word sentences either understands "no jump," or can figure it out pretty quickly. If she can respond to simple commands like "shut the door" or "pick up the toy," then I'd guess she can grasp "no jump."
- 4) Spanking is most appropriate for clear rebellion. When you give clear instruction and she clearly defies it, spanking is certainly appropriate.

- 5) Spank on the bottom. The bottom is very fleshy and almost seems designed for such purposes. Spanking other parts of the body could cause injury to your child.
- 6) Use a wooden dowel rod or something similar. Using your hand is harder to control, and requires more force (and is therefore more likely to injure). Using a rod most closely follows the biblical pattern. In addition, if you're in the habit of using a rod you are less likely to give your child a spur of the moment fly-off-the-handle type of swat. Using a rod also helps the child associate the rod with discipline, instead of associating your hand with discipline.
- 7) Stay controlled. If you feel like you're losing control let your spouse take over, or cool off for a few minutes. (I don't know about you, but nothing gets my goat like blatant disobedience right after I've given one of my kids instruction. Just like my child needs to control his or her fleshly rebellion, I need to control my fleshly anger.)

Okay, with all those things in mind, I'd recommend that you and your spouse pray about continuing to lovingly discipline until you win. If a child learns that she can win after a certain number of corrections, then she may learn to push it to the limit every time she wants to challenge your authority. If she knows that she just flat out will not win, then she should eventually realize that she might as well obey after the first time rather than entering into a battle she knows she's going to lose.

Jumping on the bed is really not the issue. It will not be a life long problem. However, rebellion is an ongoing struggle for all of us, and it is the issue you are addressing. That is why it is important to get her to yield—not just to quit jumping on the bed.

Should you spank harder? You should only spank harder if you are not spanking hard enough. ☺ Aren't you glad you asked? Seriously, I'm reluctant to give input on that without actually being there to assess it first hand or at least going into more depth (which I will eventually). Again, you and your spouse can pray about that as well and trust God's leading.

There is a great example loving discipline in the book *Growing up Whitney* (pages 34-37). It is very intentional, purposeful, persistent, and loving. On Rick Whitney's website there is also access to a booklet called "Under Loving Command". Go to [www.gcnwdads.com/pages/resources.html](http://www.gcnwdads.com/pages/resources.html) and click on article #90. This booklet provides a nice overview of discipline.

Keep trusting God!

Steve Nelson <><

## *Will Discipline Cause Rebellion?*

Question: I have heard Dobson's book on strong-willed children discourages heavy discipline for these temperaments because it will make them rebel more. Have you read this book?

Response: I just finished reading "The New Strong Willed Child" by James Dobson. I sure didn't catch any statements like that, but I could have missed something. He did question the use of corporal punishment with kids diagnosed with ADHD, but for strong-willed children he seemed far more disciplinarian than I expected. In fact, my impression from one of his comments (pg. 211) was that he was trying to stress discipline more in the new edition than he did in the original.

He said several comments like "It is appropriate, from my perspective, to spank a child under certain well-defined circumstances" (pg. 49), "It is extremely important for the parents to 'win'" (pg.50), and "I believe a mild and appropriate spanking is the discipline of choice for a hot-tempered child between twenty months and ten years of age" (pg. 58). He also has a chapter called "Corporal Punishment and the Strong Willed Child."

He didn't emphasize discipline as much as I would, and he certainly recommended starting later than I would, but overall the book was much better than I anticipated.

Anyway, it is hard to know what you mean by "heavy discipline." I think most people who believe in spanking seem to recommend it for blatant disobedience. If you do not discipline for blatant disobedience, rebellion is sure to flourish. If you inconsistently discipline for disobedience, rebellion is sure to flourish. If you consistently discipline for disobedience, your child will learn that disobedience does not pay, and instead brings unpleasant circumstances. If you are consistent, firm, and loving, this type of discipline will greatly reduce rebellious behavior.

If a parent is not in the habit of setting standards and disciplining his child when those standards are broken, then sure, I'd expect a major flare-up of rebellion. When a cowboy tries to break a wild horse, my movie watching experience tells me that that horse is not going to like it. The horse is going to go absolutely berserk for a time, until it realizes that it is not going to win. Then it eventually calms down and behaves. I'd expect the same thing from a child who is being trained for the first time, or trained consistently for the first time.

Don't waiver on this. If your child wants to challenge your authority, rise to the challenge. It's time to go to battle. That is the loving and right thing to do. God has put you in charge, and expects that you can and will win. Don't fear that engaging your child's rebellion will somehow make him worse. I'd be much more afraid that your child's rebellion will destroy him unless it is confronted,

and I'd be quick to confront it and deal with it.

Dobson put it this way, "In a moment of rebellion, a little child will consider his parents' wishes and defiantly choose to disobey. Like a military general before a battle, he will calculate the potential risk, marshal his forces, and attack the enemy with guns blazing. When that nose-to-nose confrontation occurs between generations, it is extremely important for the adult to display confidence and decisiveness. The child has made it clear that he's looking for a fight, and his parents would be wise not to disappoint him! Nothing is more destructive to parental leadership than for a mother or father to equivocate [or waffle] during that struggle." (pg. 52)

Don't get me wrong, our family has a very loving atmosphere. We hangout, hug, tease, and horseplay all the time. However, we also establish our God-given parental authority when they are young and we don't let up much as they get older. I'll look my 11-year-old in the eye and say, "Do you want to go to battle? If you want to go to battle I'm up for that, and I'll win, but it'd be much better for you to just yield, here and now." Sometimes he yields, and sometimes we go to battle, but in the end, the rebellion is put down, our child's heart is restored, and peace is brought back into the home.

Have faith that as you follow God you'll find the same blessing, and squelch those fears that somehow you're going to mess up your kid. If you follow God's leading, you will certainly not be worse off for it!

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. NIV

Steve Nelson <><



## *Can Other Forms of Discipline Be Blessed?*

I wasn't raised being spanked, and I have never really believed in spanking. Can other forms of discipline be blessed?

There are certainly other forms of discipline that can be blessed. Rebuke is a clear biblical example of another form of discipline (Proverbs 9:8; 13:1; 17:10; 19:25). I'm not sure how old your kids are, but it is important to note that Scripture seems to imply that rebuke is for those who are older and wiser. Taking away privileges or adding work are forms of discipline that can also be effective and that I think can be backed biblically. For example, God added work to Adam when he sinned in the garden. God also took away a privilege from the Israelites when he prevented them from entering into the Promised Land.

Rather than expand on those thoughts, I'd like to take another angle on this question. Sometimes I may read more into a question than is actually there, so please forgive me if I totally miss where you're coming from here.

When you ask if other forms can be blessed, it seems to me that you realize that there is a blessing that comes with spanking. In other words, you seem to be saying that you realize that the Bible teaches spanking, and therefore God will bless it. However, for some reason, you are reluctant to use it. Perhaps that is because of your own upbringing, negative accounts you've witnessed or read about, or maybe you are afraid that spanking may lead to abuse.

Let me ask you this question. Do you feel that God wants you to spank? This is an important question. Suppose you were a foster parent and were not allowed to spank, and wrote to ask if other forms could be blessed. I would say, "Absolutely!" In other words, if you were in a situation where spanking was prohibited, and you felt it would be honoring to God not to spank, I certainly believe God would bless you as you practiced other forms of biblical discipline. On the other hand, suppose you believe that spanking is biblical, and that God wants you to spank, but you don't want to. I do not think God will bless in that situation.

For example, I do not believe God wants me to spank our children when they are infants and unable to understand instructions. I believe that spanking is primarily for rebellion, and it is not possible to rebel against a rule without being able to comprehend what the rule is. Therefore I would not spank a 5-month-old, because although infants can certainly be fleshly, I'd say they are technically not rebelling because they can't comprehend the rules. I believe this is God's will in this matter, therefore, it would be wrong for me to spank an infant. (Of course, I believe that it would be wrong for anyone else as well in this example.) I do believe God wants me to spank my 3-year-old. I believe this is what God has directed in His Scripture, and I have no reason to believe that my situation is an exception to God's input in this area. Someone else may be in a different

situation and believe God's will is different. He may have a 3-year-old whose mental progress is impaired. Or it may be a wife who wants to spank, and whose husband doesn't want her to. In these cases, and in any case, it is important to know and follow God's will.

Does that make sense? If you are seeking God's blessing, the way to get it is to follow God's will. If you know His will, or in other words, if you know what He wants you to do, then do that. I think it is ill-advised to do something other than God's will, and still hope that God would bless that.

I'd encourage you to start not by finding another way to discipline, but by exploring why you are holding to a position of not believing in spanking when it is clearly taught in the Bible. Don't use your current thoughts on the matter as a starting point. Start from God's word, and then follow God's instruction as He leads you. Do you have questions, concerns, and fears on this topic? Address those. Ask questions, study the scripture, and get godly advice. Pray that God will reveal His will to you in this matter. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." When God answers your prayer, and you're confident that He has shown His will to you, then do His will, for in James 1:22 it says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Steve Nelson <><

# *Teach and Train*



## *Teach and Train - Notes*

Our homes are our \_\_\_\_\_.

Analogy of premature baby in an incubator:

### **Living out Deut. 6 on a daily basis -**

Deut. 6 is " \_\_\_\_\_ training"

### **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**

*5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

\_\_\_\_\_ for the childhood -

Adulthood: Parenting is using a childhood to prepare him or her for that.

Technique: Lifestyle based on the Word  
Rules sheet -

Technique: Ideas to have a "Deut. 6 " day -

Verse memorization - handout (draw pxrs of verses)  
games

QT's for you (picture bible for them)

Taking walks with little ones - conversation time

Education - 2 sheets / day for 3-up

Read out loud everyday

Bible story videos - rotate through them

Chores everyday- same, start basic and keep adding

$\frac{1}{2}$  hr. educational computer time (see sample sched.)

blanket time - up to 1 hr. (appointments, serving, frees you up)

helping you serve needs outside your family

cooking meals

dropping off meals

running errands for others

watching others' kids

## Role of a mother:

#1. Look for \_\_\_\_\_, look for \_\_\_\_\_

#2. Precept upon \_\_\_\_\_, line upon \_\_\_\_\_  
(Isaiah 28:10)

Difference between childishness and rebellion

2 Thess 3:13 "And as for you, never \_\_\_\_\_ of doing what is right."

Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become \_\_\_\_\_ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

#3. \_\_\_\_\_ them -

Nehemiah 9:16

"but they became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion....." and it continues.

Then it describes God toward them in at the end of verse 17:  
"But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love."

It continues to describe God toward them in verse 19:  
"Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. **For forty years you sustained them in the desert..... they lacked nothing.....**"

#4. Use their \_\_\_\_\_ with God as their reference point for their life -

"You want to hold out \_\_\_\_\_ God is as a basis for making \_\_\_\_\_ about what he should do and be."  
(*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp)

"You cannot try to build good qualities of character within him without reference to God." (*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp)

"You either call your children to be what they cannot be apart from \_\_\_\_\_, or you \_\_\_\_\_ the standard, giving them one they can keep. If you do that, you reduce their \_\_\_\_\_ for God accordingly." (*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by *Tedd Tripp*)

"We can set a life before our children that doesn't even require \_\_\_\_\_. We give a keepable standard that casts them on their own resources and native abilities and endowments - turning them away from Christ and His cross." (*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by *Tedd Tripp*)

DANGER:

#5. Teach and train via the \_\_\_\_\_ ways -

"Offer your exhortation and encouragements in a way that is consistent with your child's \_\_\_\_\_ and God's \_\_\_\_\_." (*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by *Tedd Tripp*)

A child needs to know two things:

#1

#2

5 Avenues to shape your child's character:

#1. Shaping your child's character via \_\_\_\_\_ development -

Who they are in this world

How they \_\_\_\_\_ to others

What God thinks of them...

Giving \_\_\_\_\_ to their life ....

When others disapprove, laugh at them - but God would be \_\_\_\_\_

Tolerating others -appreciating differences -

Allowing people room to grow and change-

Extending \_\_\_\_\_ to others as God does to us.

"I forgive you as the Lord forgave me." - reminds us all that we are all \_\_\_\_\_ of God's grace and mercy on a daily basis.

Definition of character: living consistently with who \_\_\_\_\_ is and who \_\_\_\_\_ am

*Sample of Proverbs - loaded with character verses:*

Prov. 18:13 "He who answers before \_\_\_\_\_ - that is his folly and his shame."

Prov. 15:30 "A cheerful look brings \_\_\_\_\_ to the heart."

Prov. 13: 1 "A wise son heeds his father's \_\_\_\_\_, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke."

Prov. 15:18 "A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a \_\_\_\_\_ man calms a quarrel."

Prov. 12:24 "\_\_\_\_\_ hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor."

Prov. 12:11 "He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks \_\_\_\_\_."

Prov. 12:16 "A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an \_\_\_\_\_."

Prov. 12:19 "Truthful lips endure forever, but a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue lasts only a moment."

Prov. 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes \_\_\_\_\_, but with humility comes wisdom."

Prov. 11:22 "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no \_\_\_\_\_."

"You are special" verses - "Who am I" verses - see handout

Who God Is - He made me. He placed me here at this time. He is ultimate. I must stand before Him one day. I must give account before Him. He has promised to draw near to those who are humble and contrite in heart. He will help me to know His strength and aid. I can know Him and the ability to obey Him. He has promised blessing to those who are dependable.

Who I Am - I am a creature. I have been made by God, for God. He has placed me here at this time and given me these opportunities. I must bring honor to Him. I am made to bring Him glory. As I draw near to Him and seek His face He will enable me to obey Him. I can come to know His help and strength. God promises to give grace to all who call upon Him.

(*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp)

**Mommy's rule: As YOU learn, \_\_\_\_\_!**

**#2. Shaping your child's character via \_\_\_\_\_ -**

Educational options:

Bible quiz - SEE HANDOUT  
Memory Madness verse - SEE HANDOUT

Spiritual development of a child -

Ages    Primary focus

1-8        Bible stories and trivia

By a time a kid is 8 they can know every major Bible story and be familiar with every major Bible character.



- The proverbs game: You say the first part of the proverb, and the child finishes with the second part. (or fills in the missing words)
- 9-13 Proverbs, memorization, One Minute Bible, Chapter a day
  - 14-16 Read through the Bible (or Bible 2000)
  - 16-18 Personal devotions and study

**#3. Shaping your child's character via \_\_\_\_\_**

Give small doses of \_\_\_\_\_ for a limited time and then take it away.

Freedoms are not earned \_\_\_\_\_ that parents give out and then cannot mess with. They are \_\_\_\_\_ tests that parents must manage -

IF a child does well with a freedom,

The role of the parent is to be the \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ mother parents with the vision:

"I will manage my child's life with how the Lord leads us \_\_\_\_\_ and what is \_\_\_\_\_ him/her, not just what others are doing, or just let his/her life happen."

GOAL PLANNING IS \_\_\_\_\_ !!  
 YOU, AS A MOTHER, ARE  
 THE \_\_\_\_\_ !

As a child gets older, parenting should look somewhat like this.

You watch me, You help me, I help you, I watch you!

(Just as a side note: Do not allow, "that is not \_\_\_\_\_.")

**#4. Shaping your child's character via others' \_\_\_\_\_ -**

Role of \_\_\_\_\_ company vs. \_\_\_\_\_ company

Kids either lean toward leading or following - both need \_\_\_\_\_

## #5. Shaping your child's character via others \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ formation -

Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.

As they get older, you can hold out their reputation as something that they need to take \_\_\_\_\_ of, but when they are little, it is \_\_\_\_\_ that is responsible for their reputation.

How would your kids be described BY OTHERS that regularly see them, interact with them? Take a few minutes.

Child #1

Child #2

Child #3

Child #4

Even if you don't agree with their input,

If it is something that you also see in their lives,

"In as much as it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

"For we are taking pains to do what is right not only in the eyes of the Lord, but also in the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_." 2 Corinthians 8:21

As a side note: Don't take \_\_\_\_\_ necessarily as a stamp of approval.

### REMEMBERING THE BIG PICTURE!

**Remember** that we are not talking about a \_\_\_\_\_ in this class; we are talking about \_\_\_\_\_

1. Your personal relationship with \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your right, biblical relationship with \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your right, biblical relationship with \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember** to line up \_\_\_\_\_ heart with what is on \_\_\_\_\_ heart!

**Remember Gal 5:6** "The only thing that counts is \_\_\_\_\_ expressing itself through \_\_\_\_\_." **Remember Gal 6:7** "A (woman) \_\_\_\_\_ what (she) sows."

## *Bible Quiz*

### **Basic questions from the first five books of the Bible**

For older kids don't give choices. For younger kids, ask the questions and give the multiple-choice answers, but mix the answers because the first answer listed is the correct one.)

After whose image did God create man?  
(Genesis 1:27)

God's; Monkeys'; Angels'; Bears'

What was Adam made from? (Genesis 2:7, 3:19)

Dust; A rib; Nothing; Monkey

What was Eve made from? (Genesis 2:22)

A rib; Dust; Blood; A piece of hair

Who was the first man (Genesis 2:7,20)

Adam; Seth; Matthew; Enoch

What was the forbidden fruit that Adam and Eve ate? (Genesis 2:6:7)

The fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; The fruit from the tree of life; Apple; Tomato

Who was the first woman (Genesis 3:20)?

Eve; Genesis; Esther; Ruth

Who was the first son in the Bible (Genesis 4:1)?

Cain; Able; Seth; Enosh

Which son of Adam was murdered by his brother, and was also mentioned in the Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith (Genesis 4:8)?

Able; Cain; Seth; Joseph

Besides Elijah, who was taken away from this life without experiencing death (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5)?

Enoch; Elisha; Paul; Adam

Who was the oldest person in the Bible (Genesis 5:27)?

Methuselah; Noah; Lamech; Moses

Who built the Ark (Genesis 6:11-22)?

Noah; Adam; Moses; Manoaah

What sign did God give Noah to show that never again would He flood the whole earth (Genesis 9:11)?

Rainbow; Mark on his forehead; His staff budded; His staff turned into a serpent

What were the names of Noah's three sons (Genesis 9:18)?

Shem, Ham, and Japheth; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; Cain, Abel, and Seth; Isaac, Jacob, and Esau

What was the name of the tower where God confused the common language and scattered people across the earth?

Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:8); Tower of the Hundred (Nehemiah 3:1); Tower in Siloam (Luke 13:4); Tower of Shechem (Judges 9:49)

To whom did God give the covenant of circumcision? (Genesis 17:9,10)

Abraham; Lot; Jacob; Adam

Whose wife turned into a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26)?

Lot; Abram; Nahor; Noah

Who had a dream of a staircase between heaven and earth that was being used by angels?

(Genesis 28:12)

Jacob; Abraham; Joseph; Aaron

Who wrestled with God? (Genesis 32:25-28)

Jacob; Esau; Joseph; Moses

How many sons did Jacob have? (Genesis 35:22)

12; 2; 3; 10

What gift did Jacob give Joseph that his brothers later took from him? (Genesis 37:3,23)

A colorful robe; His father's staff; A sword made of gold; A wife

Who became second in command to Pharaoh for predicting 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine? (Genesis 41:39,40)

Joseph; Daniel; Jacob; Moses

What baby was put into a basket and floated down the Nile river? (Exodus 2:3)

Moses; Elijah; Saul; Jesus

Who found Moses floating in the Nile? (Exodus 2:5)

Pharaoh's daughter; Miriam, his sister; A Hebrew midwife; Jochebed, his own mother

In what form did God first appear to Moses?  
(Exodus 3:2)  
Burning bush; A whisper; An angel; As white  
as light

What happened to Moses' staff when he threw  
it on the ground? (Exodus 4:3)  
It turned into a snake; It budded and grew  
almonds; It killed Cozbi the Midianite; It  
started a geyser

Who was Moses' spokesman? (Exodus 4:14)  
Aaron, his brother; Amram, his father; Jethro,  
his father-in-law; Hur, Caleb's son

Who stretched out his hand over the Red Sea to  
divide the water? (Exodus 14:21)  
Moses; Jonah; Elijah; Joshua

What came out of the rock that Moses struck  
with his staff at Horeb (also known as  
Meribeh)? (Exodus 17:6)  
Water; Quail; Honey; Manna  
When Joshua fought the Amalekites as long as  
Moses held up his hands the Israelites would  
win. Who helped Moses hold up his hands?  
(Exodus 17:12)

Which of the following is not one of the 10  
Commandments? (Exodus 20, Mark 12:29-31)  
Love your neighbor; Don't steal; Don't commit  
adultery; Honor your parents

Who were the two spies who went into the  
Promised Land and came back with a good  
report? (Numbers 14:6-9)  
Joshua and Caleb; Joshua and Moses; Aaron  
and Hur; Korah and Dathan

What punishment did God give the Israelites  
when they spied out the Promised Land and  
they complained that they should go back to  
Egypt? (Numbers 14:23,34)  
He made them wander in the desert for 40  
years; He sent them back to Egypt; He caused a  
scorching heat that killed many; He did nothing

What happened to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram?  
The earth swallowed them (Numbers 16:32);  
Fire consumed them (Numbers 16:35); A  
plague destroyed them (Numbers 16:39); They  
were stoned to death (Numbers 15:36)

What happened to Aaron's staff to show that he  
had God's support when the Israelites were  
complaining against Moses and Aaron after  
Korah's rebellion? (Numbers 17:8)  
It sprouted and produced almonds; It turned  
into a snake; It split in two and produced honey;  
It brought water from a rock

When Moses was supposed to bring water from  
a rock by speaking to it at Kadesh, what did he  
do instead? (Numbers 20:11)  
Struck it twice with his staff; Yelled at it;  
Threw his staff against it; Kicked it

Whose donkey spoke to him (Numbers 22:28)?  
Balaam son of Beor; Shechem son of Hamor;  
Joshua son of Nun; Eleazar son of Aaron

Who was probably the tallest man in the Bible?  
King Og of Bashan (Deut. 3:11); Lahmi, the  
brother of Goliath the Gittite (1 Chr. 20:5);  
Goliath (1 Sam. 17:4); The six-fingered  
descendant of Rapha (2 Sam. 21:20)

When Moses died at the age of 120, where was  
he buried? (Deuteronomy 34:6)  
In Moab, but no one knows where; Mount  
Sinai; Mount Hor; Under the temple, but no one  
knows where

*For a more comprehensive set of questions covering every major event and every  
book of the Bible visit [www.premeditatedparenting.net/85\\_free\\_bible\\_quiz.htm](http://www.premeditatedparenting.net/85_free_bible_quiz.htm). A  
version for Palm Pilots is also available.*

## *Children's Memory Verses*

### **Do Not Lie**

*Leviticus 19:11 "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.*

### **Be Kind**

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

### **Share**

*Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

### **Be Content**

*Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*

### **Obey**

*Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.*

### **Honor Parents**

*Ephesians 6:2 "Honor your father and mother"-- which is the first commandment with a promise--*

### **No Whining**

*Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,*

### **Speak Kindly**

*Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

### **Don't Be Afraid / Be Brave**

*1 Chronicles 22:13 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.*

### **Golden Rule**

*Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

### **Working Hard**

*Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,*

### **Listen**

*James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,*

### **Love Others**

*Mark 12:31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

### **Accept Discipline**

*Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.*

### **Reputation**

*Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.*

### **God Loves Me**

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

### **Love God**

*Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

### **Be Cheerful**

*A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.*

### **Don't Talk Back**

*Proverbs 18:13 He who answers before listening-- that is his folly and his shame.*

*Source: Steve and Kathleen Nelson*



## *You Are Special Verses*

**Exodus 34:6** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

**Exodus 34:14** (NLT) You must worship no other gods, but only the LORD; for he is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.

**Numbers 14:18a** "The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.

**Nehemiah 9:17b** But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them,

**Psalms 86:5** You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

**Psalms 86:15** But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

**Psalms 103:8** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

**Psalms 145:8** The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

**Lamentations 3:22,23** Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**Joel 2:13b** Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

**Jonah 4:2b** I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**John 14:21** Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

**John 14:23** Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

**John 15:9-10** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**John 15:12,13** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

**John 16:27** No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

**John 17:23** I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

**Romans 1:7** To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

**Romans 5:7-8** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 8:31** What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Romans 8:35-39** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

**2 Corinthians 13:11** Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Ephesians 1:4-5** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

**Ephesians 2:4-5** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Ephesians 3:17-19** And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Ephesians 5:1-2** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Ephesians 5:25b** . . . Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

**Colossians 3:12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved . . .

**1Thessalonians 1:4** For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup>encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

**2 Thessalonians 3:5** May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

**Titus 3:4-5** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

**1 Peter 2:4-5** As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him -- <sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**1 John 3:1** How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

**1 John 3:16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

**1 John 4:8-10** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**1 John 4:16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

**1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

**Jude 1:1b** To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:

**Revelation 1:5b-6** To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.



# Nelson Fall Schedule 2002

## Fall Schedule 2002

<u>Min</u>	<u>Time slot</u>	<u>Blaise (9)</u> Shower	<u>Hope (7)</u>	<u>Silas (5)</u>	<u>Educational TV</u>
15	9:00 - 9:15	Get dressed Breakfast	Get dressed Breakfast	Get dressed Breakfast	Carmen SanDiago (7:00) (Geography)
15	9:15 - 9:30	Dishes	Dishes	Dishes	Magic School Bus (7:30) (Science)
20	9:30 - 9:50	Personal QT (reading)	QT Video	QT Video	
20	9:50 - 10:10	Science/History	QT Video	QT Video	
20	10:10 - 10:30	Cursive Writing	Cursive Writing	Play with Kez and Malia	Sesame St. (Language)
20	10:30 - 10:50	Arithmetic Book 3	Play with Kez and Malia	Worksheet	Barney (10:00) (Music, misc)
10	10:50 - 11:00	Play with Kez and Malia	Letters and Sounds 1	On mom's computer	
15	11:00 - 11:15	Spelling & Poetry 3	Spelling	Play with Kez and Malia	
15	11:15 - 11:30	Flex time	Flex time	Flex time	Between the Lions (Phonics)
15	11:30 - 11:45	Language 3 Book	Language	TV	
15	11:45 - 12:00	Reading / Health	Arithmetic 1	TV	
30	12:00 - 12:30	Arithmetic Speed Drill	Read aloud	Tape (Can play with kids)	Reading Rainbow (Reading & listening)
30	12:30 - 1:00	Bible verses	Computer time	(AIO, Peretti, Prov., etc...)	
30	1:00 - 1:30	Lunch and cleanup	Lunch and cleanup	Lunch and cleanup	
30	1:30 - 2:00	Kids cleanup - mom QT	Kids cleanup - mom QT	Kids cleanup - mom QT	
60	2:00 - 3:00	Play outside	Play outside	Play outside	
30	3:00 - 3:30	Afternoon chores	Afternoon chores	Afternoon chores	
30	3:30 - 4:00	Nap time for younger kids, quiet play, reading, or video for older kids	Afternoon chores	Afternoon chores	
30	4:00 - 4:30				
30	4:30 - 5:00				
60	5:00 - 6:00	Meal Prep			Cyber Chase (Math)
30	6:00 - 6:30	Supper			Zoom (Problem solving)
30	6:30 - 7:00	Kid's cleanup			
30	7:00 - 7:30				
30	7:30 - 8:00	Bible quiz			
30	8:00 - 8:30	In bed reading			
	8:30 -	Bed time (Ideally)			
<b>Chores for older kids:</b>					<b>Others (That we don't currently get)</b>
Tues: Mop dining room and foyer					Math Monsters
Wed: Vacuum family room					Wishbone (History)
Thur: Mop laundry room and hallway					
Fri: Vacuum living room					
Sat: Mop kitchen					



## *The Stranger*

A few months before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind, each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play 'big brother' and develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors—Mom taught me to love the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He could hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening. If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so lifelike that I would often laugh or cry as I watched. He was like a friend to the whole family. The stranger was our storyteller.

He took Dad, Bill, and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies, and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind, but sometimes Mom would quietly get up—while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places—go to her room, read her Bible and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt an obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house—not from us, from our friends, or adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occasional four-letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted.

My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home—not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often. He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished.

He talked freely (probably too much and too freely) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationship were influenced by the stranger. As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents' den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him T.V.

*The Fourth Dimension, November, 1998, pp. 13, 17.*



# Learning the Bible through Video

## Children's Bible Videos, in Biblical Order

### Old Testament

<u>Series</u>	<u>Video title</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedbug Bible Gang	Creation Celebration
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 2	The Story of Creation
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Bible Adventures	Look What God Made
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	The Creation
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 1	Adam and Eve
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 1	Why Should I? (Obedience) Jonah, Adam and Eve
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 5	Scared and Brave - Don't Be a Bully (Respect) Cain and Abel...
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 1	Creation and the Flood
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 3	The Story of Noah's Ark
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Noah's Ark
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 2	Noah's Ark
<input type="checkbox"/> Storyteller Café	The Storm
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 3	The Tower of Babel
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 4	Abraham, the Forefather
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 5	Sodom and Gomorrah
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 6	Isaac and Ishmael
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 7	Abraham's Sacrifice
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 2	Scared and Brave - (Courage) Shadrach, David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 2	Abraham
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Tales	The Ballad of Little Joe
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 12	The Story of Joseph and His Brothers
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)	The Story of Joseph
<input type="checkbox"/> Dream Works	Joseph - King of Dreams
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Joseph & His Brothers
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 8	Joseph in Bondage
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 9	Joseph's Triumph
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 3	Joseph
<input type="checkbox"/> Superbook Video Bible	The Patience of Job
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedbug Bible Gang	Passover Potluck
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 5	The Story of Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)	The Story of Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> Dream Works	Prince of Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Bible Adventures	The Story of Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Heroes and Legends	Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 10	Moses, the Egyptian
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 11	The Burning Bush
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 12	Moses and Pharaoh
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 13	The Exodus
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 14	The Ten Commandments
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 15	The Golden Calf
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 16	Journey to the Promised Land
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 4	Moses
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 10	The Story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Joshua & the Battle of Jericho
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 17	The Fall of Jericho
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Tales 9	Josh and the Big Wall
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Samson & Delilah
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 5	Ruth
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 18	One King for Israel
<input type="checkbox"/> Superbook Video Bible	The First King
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 9	David and Saul
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedbug Bible Gang	God's Little Heroes
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 4	The Story of David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Bible Adventures	David, God's Champion
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	David & Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Heroes and Legends	David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 19	David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 2	Scared and Brave - (Courage) Shadrach, David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Superbook Video Bible	David and Goliath
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Tales 5	Dave and the Giant Pickle
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)	The Story of David
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 20	King David
<input type="checkbox"/> Veggie Tales 13	King George and the Ducky
<input type="checkbox"/> NIV Kids Club	Psalms
<input type="checkbox"/> In the Beginning 21	The Wisdom of Solomon
<input type="checkbox"/> NIV Kids Club	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginners Bible (The) 7	The Story of Jonah and the Whale
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)	Jonah
<input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Heroes and Legends	Jonah and the Whale
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 1	Why Should I? (Obedience) Jonah, Adam and Eve
<input type="checkbox"/> Superbook Video Bible	Jonah and the Big Fish
<input type="checkbox"/> Testament: The Bible in Animation 7	Jonah
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)	The Story of Elijah
<input type="checkbox"/> Superbook Video Bible	Elijah the Prophet

- Series**
- Testament: The Bible in Animation 8
  - Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 4
  - Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)
  - In the Beginning 22
  - Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 6
  - Children's Heroes of the Bible (OT)
  - Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)
  - Veggie Tales 14
  - Veggie Tales 4
  - Beginners Bible (The) 8
  - Great Bible Adventures
  - Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)
  - Greatest Heroes and Legends
  - Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 3
  - Superbook Video Bible
  - Testament: The Bible in Animation 6
  - Veggie Tales 1
  - In the Beginning 23
  - Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 3
  - In the Beginning 24

- Video title**
- Elijah
  - Scared and Brave - (Helping Others) ... Moses and Amalekites
  - The Story of Jeremiah
  - The Exile of Israel
  - Scared and Brave - Boo (Fear) Paul and Silas in Prison, 12 Spies
  - The Story of Esther
  - Queen Esther
  - Esther: The Girl Who Became Queen
  - Rack, Shack & Benny
  - The Story of Daniel and the Lion's Den
  - Daniel in the Lions' Den
  - Daniel & the Lions' Den
  - Daniel and the Lion's Den
  - Talk to God. He Listens! (Prayer) Nehemiah, Daniel and Lions
  - Daniel
  - Daniel
  - Where's God When I'm Scared? (Daniel)
  - Release from Babylon
  - Talk to God. He Listens! (Prayer) Nehemiah, Daniel and Lions
  - Prophets in the Desert

## New Testament

- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 1
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 2
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 3
- Beginners Bible (The) 1
- Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)
- In the Beginning 25
- Superbook Video Bible
- Visual Bible for Kids (The)
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 4
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 5
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 6
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 7
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 8
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 9
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 10
- Beginners Bible (The) 11
- Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 4
- Veggie Tales 3
- Beginners Bible (The) 9
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 11
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 12
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 13
- Beginners Bible (The) 13
- Great Bible Adventures
- Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 14
- Superbook Video Bible
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 15
- Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 5
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 16
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 17
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 18
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 19
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 20
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 21
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 22
- Veggie Tales
- (Just for Kids)
- Beginners Bible (The) 6
- Greatest Adv (Hanna-Barbera)
- Greatest Heroes and Legends
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 23
- Visual Bible for Kids (The)
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 24
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 25
- Great Bible Adventures
- Great Bible Adventures
- Revolutionary (The)
- Revolutionary (The)
- Revolutionary (The)
- Visual Bible (The)
- Visual Bible (The)
- Visual Bible (The)
- Visual Bible (The)
- Visual Bible for Kids (The)
- 
- Children's Heroes of the Bible (NT)
- Jesus... A Kingdom Without Frontiers 26
- Mr. Henry's Wild & Wacky World 6
- Greatest Heroes and Legends
- NIV Kids Club

- The Announcement to Mary
- The King Is Born
- King Herod and the Wise Men
- The Story of the Nativity
- Nativity
- The Birth of Jesus
- Nativity
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Boy Jesus in the Temple
- The Baptism of Jesus
- Temptations in the Desert
- John the Baptist
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Woman at the Well
- The Sermon on the Mount
- The Story of the Good Samaritan
- Scared and Brave - (Helping Others) Good Samaritan...
- Are You My Neighbor?
- The Story of the Prodigal Son
- The Prodigal Son
- The Good Shepherd
- Jesus Calls His Apostles
- The Story of Jesus and His Miracles
- The Miracles of Jesus
- Miracles of Jesus
- The Miracles of Jesus
- Miracles of Love
- The Story of Zacchaeus
- Scared and Brave - Don't Be a Bully (Respect) ... Zacchaeus
- Jesus Feeds the Multitudes
- Jesus' Teaching Ministry
- Jesus Raises Lazarus
- Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem
- The Last Supper
- Agony in the Garden
- The Trial of Jesus
- An Easter Carol
- Easter Promise
- The Story of Easter
- Easter Story
- The Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection
- Jesus Died on the Cross
- The Story Behind the Cross
- The Resurrection of Jesus
- Jesus Ascends into Heaven
- Here Comes Jesus
- Walking With Jesus
- Revolutionary (the): Epic
- Revolutionary (the): Part 1
- Revolutionary (the): Part 2
- Matthew 1 of 4
- Matthew 2 of 4
- Matthew 3 of 4
- Matthew 4 of 4
- The Great Storyteller
- Miracle Maker (The)
- New Testament (6 on 1)
- The Acts of the Apostles
- Scared and Brave - Boo (Fear) Paul and Silas in Prison, 12 Spies
- The Apostles
- Colossians