

Equipping Our Kids (and Grandkids) for Life



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Equipping Our Kids (and Grandkids) for Life

Equipping our kids for this and the life to come is the hardest job in the world. But don't let the cynical experts get to you. The Bible still promises that "with God all things are possible." What we need is wisdom...the tried, tested and timeless counsel that comes from one source: **God's Word.**

"Be strong and courageous" Joshua 1:9

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:7

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Schedule of Sessions

Session

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- 3 Keeping the Family Safe and Strong
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- 7 Shaping the Defiant Will
- 8 Preventing the Dysfunctional Home
- 9 Handling Sibling Unrest
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- 11 Managing the Tough Teen Years
- 12 Making Sure They Know What They Need to Know
- 13 Letting Our Kids Go

Session 1—Starting with the Basics

1. Setting the Foundation

Prov. 24:3-4 [NKJV]

3 Through wisdom a house is built,
And by understanding it is established;
4 By knowledge the rooms are filled
With all precious and pleasant riches.

Ps. 127:1 [NKJV]

Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the Lord guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.

2. Applying Key Principles

Prov. 22:6 [NKJV]

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

A. The Nature of the Training

B. The Duration of the Training

C. Implementing the Training

Discussion Questions—Starting with the Basics

1. Discuss the challenges of different ages/stages of raising our kids: infant, toddler, grade-school years, pre-teens, teens, college age, etc.

2. Prov. 22:6 is a truism—a general truth that generally works. It doesn't argue exceptions. Ezek. 18 illustrates that good parents can have rebellious children (vv. 5-13). At the same time, poor parents can have godly children. (v. 14). How does the principle of individual choice (free moral agency) bear upon raising kids?

3. How important is it in the early years of a child's life to create a desire in their hearts for God? Discuss some practical ways to do that.

4. Name something your parents or grandparents did that influenced you at an early age.

5. What kind of riches does Solomon have in mind in Prov. 24:3-4?

6. Private: To achieve their goals, businesses create a mission statement to keep them headed in the right direction. But have you ever thought about what you as parents want your family to achieve? Just as Fortune 500 companies communicate vision and mission to their employees and shareholders, a family should do the same. Take some time this week to develop a Mission Statement for your family. There are lots of resources on the internet including <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/writing-a-family-mission-statement>. Please allow me to suggest the following to begin:

a. *First and foremost, we will love and serve God.*

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

Session 2—Being What We Want Our Kids (and Grandkids) to Be

1. Setting the Foundation

Ezek. 16:44-45 [NKJV]

44 "Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: 'Like mother, like daughter!' 45 You are your mother's daughter, loathing husband and children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children; your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 [NKJV]

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Deut. 6:6-9 [NKJV]

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2. Applying Key Principles

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A. Modeling Use of Our Time

How to model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Modeling Use of Our Money

How to model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Modeling Worship to God

How to model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What to not model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

James 1:22 [NKJV]

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

D. Modeling Social Behavior

How to model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Phil. 4:8-9 [NKJV]

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things.

E. Modeling Gratitude, Thankfulness, Respect and Honesty

How to model to our children:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The end result of us being what we want our children to be should be:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Discussion Questions—Being What We Want Our Kids (and Grandkids) to Be

1. Have you and your spouse ever sat down and discussed the differences in your children? What motivates each individual child? What methods of discipline work and don't work for each? What characteristics need to be encouraged and what needs to be curbed in each child?

2. How often do you pray for each of your children? I don't mean the general... "Lord, bless the kids...." but rather really praying specifically for each individual child. In addition to obeying the gospel, what do you see as the three greatest individual needs of each of your children?

3. Why is our example such a large part of our children being who we want them to be?

4. Looking back at your childhood, what are some things you learned by your parents' example (positive or negative)?

5. Bringing to the attention of the cashier when you've been undercharged is one simple way your children can learn honesty by seeing it in us. What are some other ways you can think of?

6. What are some other things we want our children to be that weren't covered in this lesson? How are you helping or hindering your kids in becoming those things?

Session 3—Keeping the Family Safe and Strong

1. Setting the Foundation

Deut. 6:6-9 [NKJV]

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Judges 2:10 [NKJV]

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

Prov. 6:20-23 [NKJV]

20 My son, keep your father's command,
And do not forsake the law of your mother.

21 Bind them continually upon your heart;
Tie them around your neck.

22 When you roam, they will lead you;
When you sleep, they will keep you;
And when you awake, they will speak with you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp,
And the law a light;
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life

2. Applying Key Principles

A. The Setting for Deuteronomy Chapter 6

B. Moses Four-Fold Survival Instructions in Deut. 6

1. Hear the Truth Continually. v. 4

2. Love the Lord Fervently. v. 5

3. Teach your Children Diligently. v. 7-9

4. Fear the Lord Greatly. v. 10-12

Discussion Questions—Keeping the Family Safe and Strong

1. Discuss the historical changes in the American family the past 100 years. While we have more advantages today, do you think the family has generally become stronger or weaker? Why?

2. What usually happens to children when they are given too much? What usually happens to adults when they are given too much? Why?

3. Why do you think Moses addressed parents to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” before he admonished them to teach their children?

4. Our children need to know the facts of the Bible. But they also need to know how the Bible connects to real life. In addition to knowing the Bible answers, how can we equip them to better live Bible lives?

5. Moses encouraged the Israelites to use the natural flow of conversation to deposit Truth into the lives of their children. Think of specific ways to do that around the house with the four situations presented in Deut. 6:7.

Session 4—Creating a Clear Vision for Our Family

1. Setting the Foundation

Matt. 6:33 [NKJV]

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matt. 22:34-40 [NKJV]

34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Rom. 12:1-2 [NKJV]

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. The Critical Importance of the Most Important Relationship Ps. 16:2 and 11, Ps. 36:5-9

B. Two Important Exhortations for Parents:

1. Do not let our kids be conformed to this world: Col. 2:8, Eph. 5:8-10, Lev. 20:26, Deut. 18:9-10, Rom. 12:1-2

2. But let them be transformed by the renewing of their minds: Rom. 12:1-2

Discussion Questions—Creating a Clear Vision for Our Family

1. Viewing the world in which we live today, do you think Jesus would tell us the same thing he told Martha?

2. How many ways can you list that parents unwittingly offer alternative pleasures and joys that distract their children from their relationship with God?

3. Do you ever feel like a glorified taxi-driver? With three children in our household, we had this rule: *one extracurricular activity at a time*. Even then it was difficult at times. What rules have you set that ensures that your family has some margin for appropriate balance?

4. What Scripture relating to parenting has meant the most to you? What person(s) has been able to give you wise advice that has helped you as a parent?

5. What are some of the Biblical non-negotiables through which we must screen the activities of our children to ensure that they are not in conflict with the goal of training them to live for God? Here is one to start:
- a. *The activity must not conflict with worship on the Lord's Day.*
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

Session 5—Managing the Home for Success

1. Setting the Foundation

Prov. 17:6 [NKJV]

Children’s children are the crown of old men,
And the glory of children is their father.

Prov. 31:28 [NKJV]

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her:

1 Peter 5:8 [NKJV]

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil
walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may
devour.

James 1:5-6 [NKJV]

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who
gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be
given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,
for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and
tossed by the wind.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. Keeping the World Out and God in Our Families

B. Establishing Reasonable Rules for Home and Family Life

C. Handling Mistakes (because They Will Surely Happen!)

D. Asking for Help from God and Others

Discussion Questions—Managing the Home for Success

1. We read in I Peter 5:8 that the devil is seeking to devour our children and destroy our homes. What safeguards have you taken to minimize this threat and to protect your children from his evil intent?

2. While our children typically place us as parents on a pedestal early on, they eventually learn that mom and dad aren't perfect. Each of us makes mistakes at times. Why is it important to communicate authentically with our kids (understanding, of course, age

appropriateness) and to help them see that we are not perfect but trying?

3. Studies have shown that families who eat at least one meal together each have a greater chance of survival than those that don't. Those studies also reveal that the kids in those families make better grades at school, have a greater sense of self-worth, experience less tension with parents, are less likely to smoke, use alcohol and drugs and becomes sexually active. Why do you think that is the case?

4. One dad occasionally calls for a media fast lasting 24-48 hours whereby he literally unplugs all TVs, computers, smartphones and anything else that connects his family members to the outside world. As a result, they reconnect with each other, read, and play games or just talk. Do you think that may be a good idea in your family now and then?

5. When was the last time you did something unexpected and fun with your family? What did you do and what was the end result?

6. Twenty years from now, what will your kids remember about their home life?

Session 6—Administering Discipline: How Much and How Often

1. Setting the Foundation

Prov. 13:24 [NKJV]

24 He who spares his rod hates his son,
But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Heb. 12:6 [NKJV]

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."

2. Applying Key Principles

A. God Links Love and Discipline

B. Some Necessary Distinctions

1. The distinction between child abuse and godly discipline

2. The distinction between crushing the spirit and shaping then will. Prov. 15:13, Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

3. The distinction between natural childishness and willful defiance.

**Discussion Questions—Administering Discipline-
How Much and How Often**

1. How do you respond to someone who says: “I love my children too much to ever spank them”?

2. Read Hebrews 12:6-11. What truths about discipline in the home do you find there?

3. What does Prov. 29:15 say about a child who gets his own way?

4. What does Prov. 29:17 say about the positive benefits of negative discipline?

5. Why do you think the Apostle Paul calls out fathers on two occasions in reference to “provoking your children to anger” (Eph. 6:4) and “causing them to lose heart”? (Col. 3:21)

6. Who is the one that loves his son according to Prov. 13: 24?

7. It’s easy to forget that kids will be kids. Given their immaturity, how can we teach them to be more responsible?

Session 7—Shaping the Defiant Will

1. Setting the Foundation

Prov. 3:11-12 [NKJV]

11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor detest His correction;

12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Prov. 19:18 [NKJV]

18 Chasten your son while there is hope,
And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Prov. 29:15 [NKJV]

15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom,
But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. A Battle of Wills

B. Five Principles Worth Considering

1. Start early. Prov. 13:24; Prov. 22:15

2. Stay balanced. Prov. 29:15; Prov. 3:11-12

3. Establish rules and be consistent but also be reasonable.

4. Stay the course despite how tough it seems.

5. Keep praying for guidance and wisdom.

Discussion Questions—Shaping the Defiant Will

1. There is no doubt that God instructs parents to inflict corporal punishment (spanking) upon children when they defy parental authority. If we can't control our toddler, get his attention and earn his respect, what do you think will happen when that toddler becomes a teen?

2. “Discipline your son while there is hope” (Prov. 19:18a). What is that telling you?

3. You tell your 2-year-old: “Do not touch the remote control!” You watch in amazement as he inches closer and closer to the object of his fascination. His hand reaches for the device while his eyes remain locked on yours. And then, incredibly, he grasps it and smiles. There is more going on than his desire to touch the remote control. What is really happening and what must be our response?

Session 8—Preventing the Dysfunctional Home

1. Setting the Foundation

1 Sam. 3:13 [NKJV]

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

Prov. 19:18 [NKJV]

18 Chasten your son while there is hope,
And do not set your heart on his destruction.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. Eli, the High Priest. I Sam. 1:3, 9; 2:22

B. The Natural Sons, Hophni and Phinehas. I Sam. 1-3

C. The Adopted Son, Samuel. I Sam. 1:20, 25, 28, 3:19

D. The Result. I Sam. 2: 22, 24, 27, 29, 3:12-16, 23- 24

E. How Did This Happen and What Can We Do to Prevent It in Our Family?

1. Paying more attention to our work than our family. I Sam. 3:8

2. Refusing to discipline when necessary. I Sam. 3:13

3. Failing to hear and respond to the warnings of others. I Sam. 2:29

Discussion Questions—Preventing the Dysfunctional Family

1. Take a close look at your own family. What are some things that can easily wreak havoc on your family during the next 12 months if allowed to take root? What proactive steps can you take now that will keep your family safe and strong?

2. In many ways, we must raise our children surrounded by a dysfunctional world and largely ungodly world. How can we prepared them for life in the face of so many obstacles that threaten to destroy them?

3. The telling statement of I Samuel 2:29 “You honor your sons above me” should speak to each of us. We must never allow parental devotion to our children to overtake our foremost duty to the Lord. Yet, it is easy to do. Think of ways this could happen.

4. Like Eli, we can have blind spots about our own children. What is our response when God brings warnings of others to our door? Is it always the school’s fault? The teachers fault? The policeman’s fault? Or the elder’s fault? Or, are we wise enough to listen to these warnings? It’s always easier to blame someone else than to take responsibility and necessary action. Discuss.

Session 9—Handling Sibling Unrest

1. Setting the Foundation

Gen. 4:1-8 [NKJV]

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Gen. 25:28 [NKJV]

28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Gen. 37:3-4 [NKJV]

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. Family Problems in Genesis

1. Cain and Abel. Gen. 4:1

2. Jacob and Esau. Gen. 25:28, 27:41

3. Jacob's sons. Gen. 37

B. Family Problems with King David. II Sam. 2, 5:13

C. Important Lessons and Takeaways

1. We must reclaim and focus on family priorities.

2. We must prevent parental passivity.

3. We must communicate directly and clearly.

4. We must discipline firmly but fairly.

5. We must love and show our love consistently and equally.

6. We must pray (a lot) for guidance.

7. We must ask respected brethren to help us and guide us.

Discussion Questions—Handling Sibling Unrest

1. After a study like this, our thoughts are drawn to our own brothers and sisters. If you are honest with yourself, you will have to admit that there was some sibling rivalry at times. If you could go back in time and change your behavior in relation to your siblings, what would you change and do differently?

2. Why do you think the Bible is so revealing about the cracks in the home life of some of God's greatest servants?

3. Discuss the way Isaac and Rebekah contributed to the feud between their sons. How can parents avoid this pitfall given that it is natural to be drawn to certain traits in some children more than in others? (For example, an athletic dad may be like Isaac and be drawn more to an athletic minded and gifted son than to one who is musically inclined, etc.)

4. Given his polygamy and mistresses, along with all his children and the stepchild relationships plus his busyness with being king, how do you sum up David's behind the scenes home life? What takeaways do you observe?

5. Think about the families discussed in this lesson and the sibling rivalry in each. How could disaster have been avoided in each family?

Session 10—Building Self-Esteem in Our Kids (and Grandkids)

1. Setting the Foundation

Mark 10:13-16 [NKJV]

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." 16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Eph 5:28-29 [NKJV]

8 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. The Universal Principle-Love of Self. Eph. 5:28-29, I Thess. 2:7

B. The Critical Importance of Self-Esteem in Our Kids. Prov. 25:11

C. How to Create and Maintain Self-Esteem in Our Kids.

1. Learn who they really are. Prov. 20:5, 11

2. Get involved with each of them. Prov. 27:17

3. Believe in and bless each of them. Mark 10:16, Prov. 27:19

Discussion Questions—Building Self-Esteem in our Kids (and Grandkids)

1. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. How long will discouraging words from a parent stay with a child?

2. How do we find the balance between a politically correct culture we live in that takes positive reinforcement to the extreme (for example, failing to correct a child for fear it might harm his self-esteem or failing to reward a child unless everyone gets the same

reward) and the opposite extreme of constant negativism that fails to praise?

3. How does having a positive faith in God and His promises help our children understand their own uniqueness and individual place in the world? And how would you counsel a child with a physical feature or disability who wants to know...*why did God make me this way?*

4. What projects or activities do you and your children do together that brings out the best in each of them?

5. Private: Think about each of your children. List 2–3 of their strengths that you need to draw out (nourish) and develop (cherish).

Session 11—Managing the Tough Teen Years

1. Setting the Foundation

Eccl. 11:9-12:1 [NKJV]

9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth,
And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth;
Walk in the ways of your heart,
And in the sight of your eyes;
But know that for all these
God will bring you into judgment.

10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart,
And put away evil from your flesh,
For childhood and youth are vanity.

12 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,
Before the difficult days come,
And the years draw near when you say,
"I have no pleasure in them"

2. Applying Key Principles

A. We as parents must first love and respect God above all else. Deut. 6:5-7

B. We as parents must ensure our marriage is strong and that we stand united. Amos 3:3

C. We must use the Word of God as our standard and our brothers and sisters in Christ as our allies.

D. We must bring up our children (early and often!). Eph. 6:1-4, Eph. 5:29, Prov. 19:18, Prov. 22:6

E. We must create a safe haven in our homes.

F. We teach accountability and the concept of consequences to our kids. Eccl. 11:9-12:1

G. We must teach our teenagers to respect and honor God. Deut. 6:5-7, Eccl.12:1

H. We must pray for wisdom and for our teenagers (early and often!) Gal. 4:19, Matt. 5:13, Heb. 5:14, 8:10, Prov. 13:20, 6:1-3 and others.

Discussion Questions—Managing the Tough Teen Age Years

1. Suicide is an epidemic among American teens. Discuss 1) factors that contribute to the problem, and 2) what we can say and do to stay close and connected to our children.

2. The wise man instructs young people to “remove sorrow (vexation or rebellion)” in Eccl. 11:10. Discuss 1). the need to watch for signs of rebellion early on, and 2). ways we can curb rebellion in our kids.

3. The wise man instructions young people to “put away evil (pain) from your flesh.” It is our job as parents to have serious discussions with our teens (and tweens) about the dangers of drinking, drugs, and sexual promiscuity. We must know what’s going on (social media) and we must know their friends. Someone once said: “show me their friends and I will show you their future.” Do you agree?

4. Private: “I wish I was a teenager again” ...Think back to your own teen years and describe some of the difficulties you faced.

5. Private: Do you keep check on your kid’s social network accounts? Given the times, we cannot bury our heads in the sand. Discuss with your spouse or other Christian friends.

Session 12—Making Sure They Know What They Need to Know

1. Setting the Foundation

Deut. 6:5-9 [NKJV]

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Prov. 22:6 [NKJV]

6 Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Eph. 6:4 [NKJV]

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

2. Applying Key Principles

A. Our children are special creations of God.

Ps. 139:14

B. Our children are loved unconditionally by God and us. Titus 2:4

C. But their choices have consequences. Num. 32:23

D. The most important things in life cannot be purchased. Luke 12:15

E. There is right and wrong in this world. Eph. 6:1-3, I Pet. 3:17 and others

F. They will need courage to remain true and faithful. I Tim. 4:12

G. The Golden Rule should be honored. Matt. 7:12

H. Work hard and be the best employee in the company. Col. 3:22-24, Eccl. 9:10

I. Marriage is for life so make it work! Rom. 7:2

J. God comes first....in everything! Eccl. 12:13-14

**Discussion Questions—Making Sure They Know
What They Need to Know**

1. What do you see as the hardest part of raising kids in the 21st century?

2. What has been the neatest (and perhaps the least expensive) memory maker you have done with your children?

3. “But, Dad, everyone is seeing that movie...even my Christian friends!” We use the website www.pluggedin.com or

www.christiananswers.net/spotlight to determine what they should and should not see. These sites will tell you how much profanity, violence and sexual situations are in the film. What other resources do you use for this purpose?

4. Colossians 3:22-25 makes four key points: 1). Have integrity on the job (v. 22), 2). Do your best (v. 23), 3). Know your real boss (v, 24), and 4). Don't worry about everyone else. Developing a great work ethic and attitude will take our kids far in the working world. Discuss your observations.

5. We need to teach our kids how to act when they are in the homes of others. We should teach them to be respectful of their hosts, express appreciation, to offer to help with chores and leave every room like they found it. What does it say about their upbringing when they show little regard for common courtesy and manners?

Session 13—Letting Our Kids Go

1. Setting the Foundation

Eph. 6:1-4 [NKJV]

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Gal. 6:7 [NKJV]

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Matt. 25:20-23 [NKJV]

20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

2. Applying the Principles

A. Letting go means letting our children do things for themselves. Gal. 6:7

B. Letting go is tied to establishing trust. Matt. 25:20-21

C. Letting go mean releasing control over our children.

D. Letting go vs. codependency and enabling our child. Prov. 22:6, I Sam. 3:12-14

E. Letting go and the empty nest.

“Letting Go” from Ester Bergen in *Letting Go is Part of Parenting*

- Letting go does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for them.
- Letting go is not to enable, but to allow learning from consequences.
- Letting go is not to fix, but to be supportive.
- Letting go is not to be in the middle of arranging all the outcomes but to allow others to determine their own destiny.
- Letting go is not being protective, it to permit another to face reality.
- Letting go is not to deny but to accept.
- Letting go is not to nag, scold or argue but instead to enable them to search out their own shortcomings and correct them.
- Letting go is not to regret the past but to grow and live for the future.

Discussion Questions—Letting Our Kids Go

1. What is the goal of parenting?

2. What steps of letting go changes at the following stages of our kids' lives:

- a. Toddler _____
- b. School age _____
- c. Teenage _____
- d. College _____
- e. Marriage _____

3. What does Genesis 2:24 teach us about letting go?

4. Why should a parent not do for a child what he or she can do for themselves?

5. How is successful obedience related to trust and additional responsibility?

6. What damage does a well-meaning parent do to his children when he interferes to prevent his child from experiencing the consequences of their sinful choices?

7. How might couples help each other through the adjustments of the empty nest?

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