

# Riding the Emotional Roller-Coaster of Parenthood

A photograph of a roller coaster car filled with people, ascending a steep green track. The car is yellow and white, and the track is supported by yellow pillars. The sky is clear blue, and there are palm trees and other roller coaster tracks visible in the background.

Ellijay Church of Christ  
Steve Wages Ph.D., CFLE  
May 19, 2019

Frank and Ernest



© 1989 by NEA, Inc. THAVES 7-19





# Riding the Emotional Roller-Coaster of Parenthood: Begin with the End in Mind

Ellijay Church of Christ  
Steve Wages Ph.D., CFLE  
May 19, 2019

# Biblical Principals of Parenting

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.



Deuteronomy 4:9





# Biblical Principals of Parenting

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; instead, bring them up in the discipline (i.e., training) and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4



# Biblical Principals of Parenting

My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way of life.

Proverbs 6: 20-23





# Biblical Principals of Parenting

He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. I Timothy 3: 4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise....  
Ephesians 6: 1-3

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

# Biblical Principals of Parenting

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

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath (anger); instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.  
Ephesians 6:4**



# Biblical Principals of Parenting

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 loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his Father.... Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it....

Hebrews 12: 5-11

# Biblical Principals of Parenting

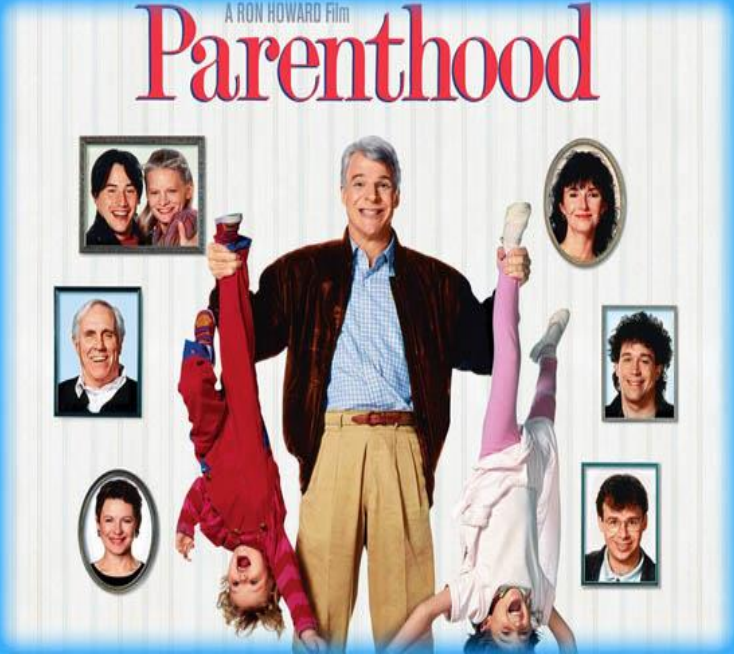
Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12: 5-11



# Biblical Principles of Parenting

- **The authority of parents is endorsed.**
- **Children are to respect, honor and obey their parents.**
- **Discipline is in the best interests of the child.**
- **Discipline is not to be harsh, should not provoke a child to anger, or be destructive to the spirit of a child.**















THE SHOCKWAVE

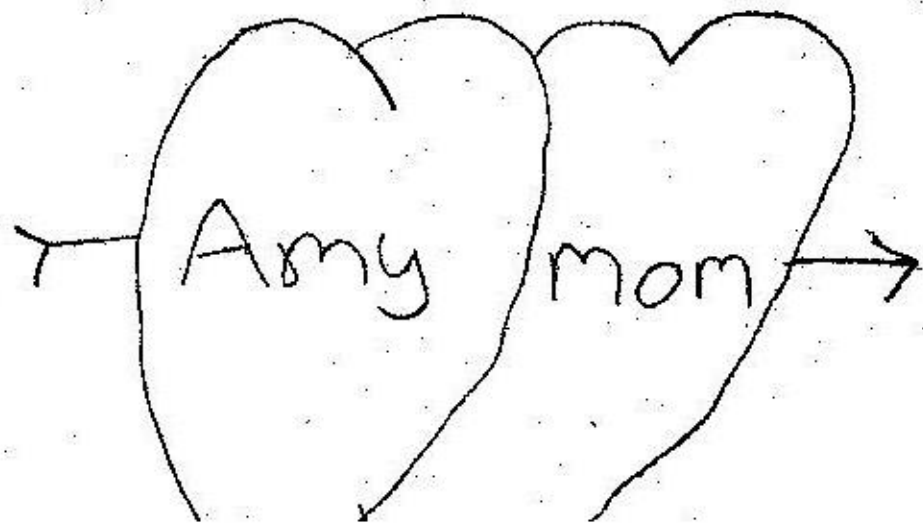
Manor

Drayton



to mom

I am going to run away.  
I all ready have lots of blankets and lots of clothes  
I now that you now why I am going but just  
incase I'll tell you. The reson I am going is  
becaus nobody loves me. Maby you can ca  
me. Love Amy



# Parenting is Spiritual Warfare

**<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we<sup>[a]</sup> are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.**



**Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT**

# Parenting is Spiritual Warfare

We're in a raging battle for the hearts of our children that begins at the cradle and never ends this side of the grave.

(Smalley & Trent)



# The Goal of Parenting

Children are not like appliances—  
when it comes to parenting there are  
no guarantees, the goal is to increase  
the odds, the probability of success!





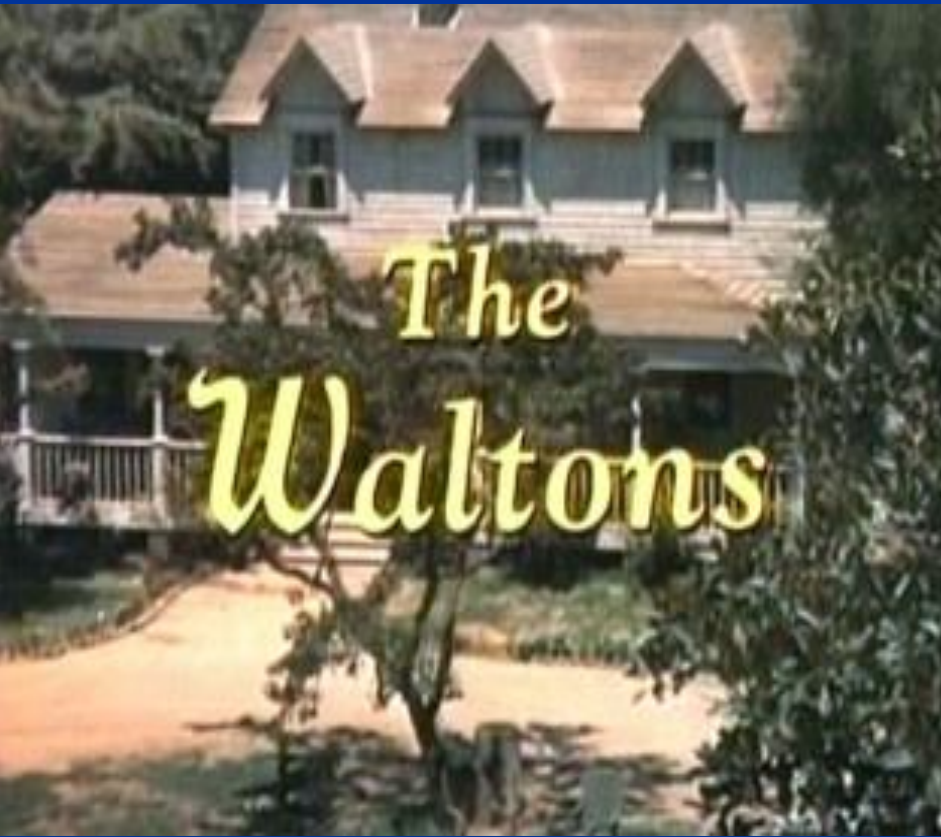
# Biblical Principals of Parenting

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

Proverbs 22:6



Do you believe that parenting is different, perhaps more difficult, today than it was in 1930? If so, how is it different and/or more difficult?





# Major Transitions in Lifestyle

## Characteristics

## Norm 1930

## Norm Today

Family Interaction

High

Low

Value System

Similar

Diverse

Role Models

Healthy

Unhealthy

Logical Consequences

Experienced

Avoided

Intergenerational Bonds

Many

Few

Education

Less

More

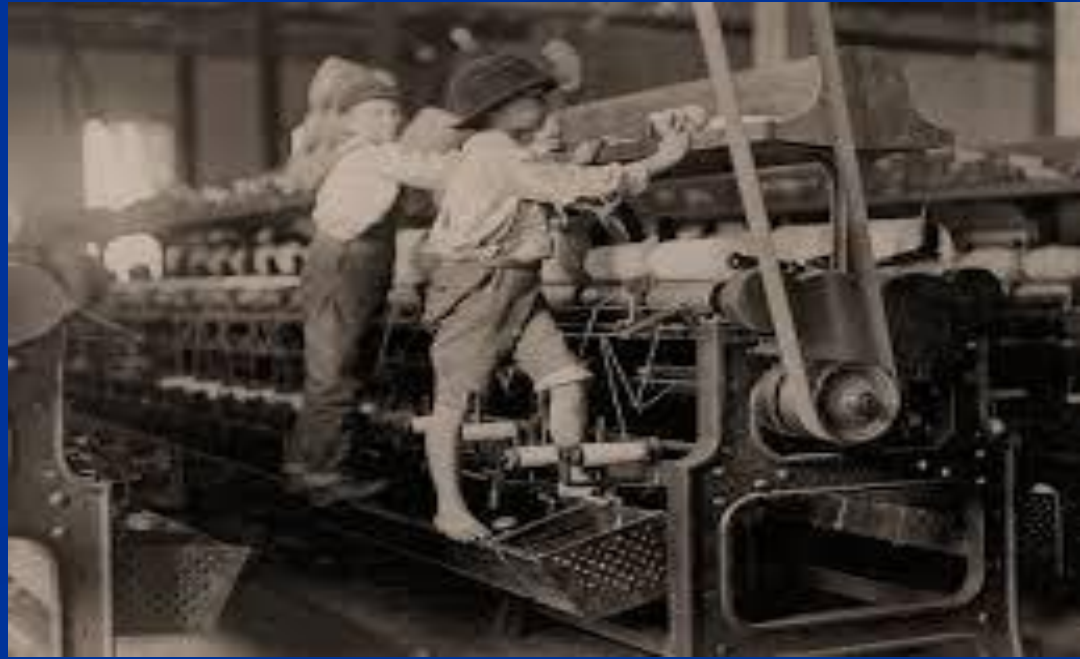


(adapted from Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World, 1989)

# Major Transitions in Lifestyle

<u>Characteristics</u>	<u>Norm 1930</u>	<u>Norm Today</u>
Technology	Low	High
Non-negotiable Tasks	Many	Few
Family Work	Much	Little
Family Size	Large	Small
Step/Single Parents	Few	Many

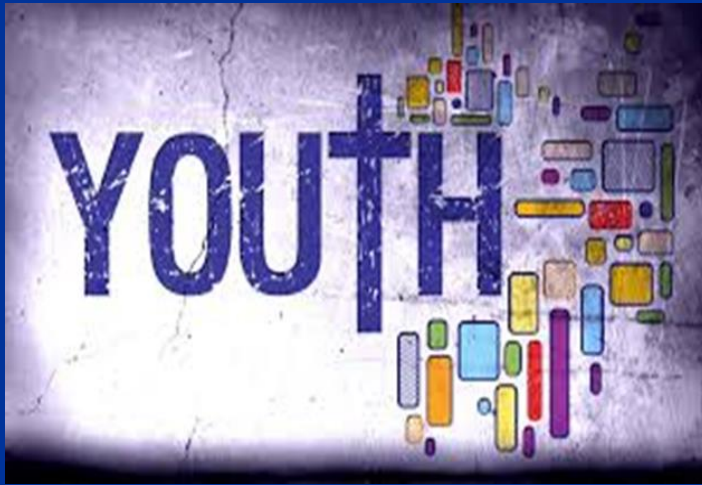
(adapted from Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World, 1989)





# Major Transitions in Lifestyle

1. Less family interaction.
2. Diverse value systems.
3. Unhealthy role-models.
4. Diverse lifestyles.
5. Little family work/responsibility.
6. Less stable environments.



# Major Transitions in Lifestyle

Childhood in those days was an internship for life. There were many resources to encourage the growth of self-discipline, good judgment, and responsibility. Children learned life-skills because they had meaningful roles to play in the economic lives of their families, and because they grew up in stable environments in which they followed well-established value systems (Glenn & Nelsen, 2000).



# Transitions in Parenting Styles

In the new culture of childhood, children are viewed as consumers of parental services, and parents are viewed as providers of parental services and brokers of community services for children. What gets lost is the other side of the human equation: children bearing responsibilities to their families and communities.

Take Back Your Kids (Doherty, 2000)





# Transitions in Parenting Styles

In a balanced world, children are expected not only to receive from adults but also to actively contribute to the world around them, to help care for the young, and the infirmed, to add their own marks to the quality of family life, and to contribute to the common good in their school and communities.

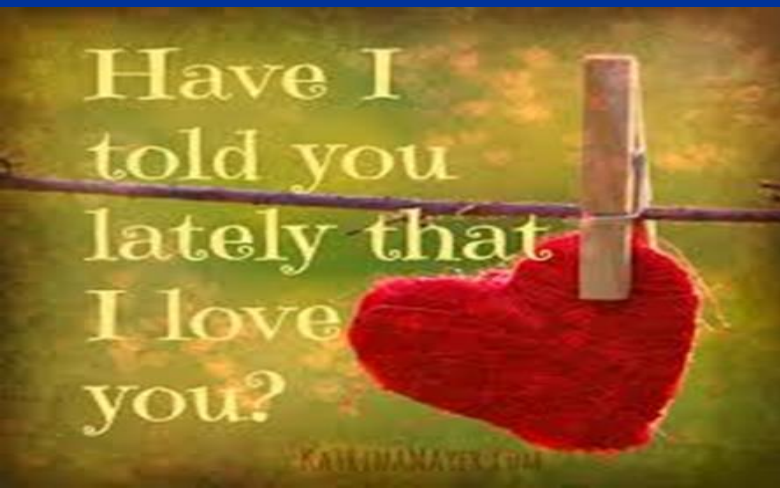
Take Back Your Kids (Doherty, 2000)





# Transitions in Parenting Styles

1. The consumer culture of childhood.
2. The therapeutic culture of parenthood.
  - Children are fragile, must protect feelings.
  - Promote the individuality of child more than social conformity.
  - Cannot influence/control teen behavior.



# Transitions in Parenting Styles

1. We no longer want our children to grow up in fear of our anger, but we now live in fear of theirs.
2. We know when to explain ourselves and negotiate with our children, but not when to cut off further discussion.
3. We support our child's right to express their ire and frustration, but don't know when they cross the line into disrespect.



# Transitions in Parenting Styles

4. We are expert in finding community activities for our children to participate in, but don't know when to say "enough."
5. We are willing to bend our family time to fit our children's schedules, but are hesitant to limit their schedules for the sake of the family.
6. We are more involved in our children's sports activities, but we have lost the balance between home life and kid's outside activities.





# Transitions in Parenting Styles

7. We are better at knowing what to buy our children than what to deny them.
8. We are better at helping our own children make their own decisions, but are confused about when we should make decisions for them.
9. We earnestly desire to meet our children's needs, but often can't separate their needs from their desires.

(William Doherty, *Take Back Your Kids*, 2000)





# Transitions in Lifestyle

There is only one antidote...that is the increase at home of activities designed to encourage the formation of character and competence (*and faith*) in young people. And it will require that we significantly change the experience base of many young people to allow them opportunities to develop the necessary perceptions and skills for successful (*faithful*) living.



Raising Self-Reliant Children  
Self-Indulgent World

# Begin With the End in Mind



Bodies By Design

# Begin With the End in Mind

Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

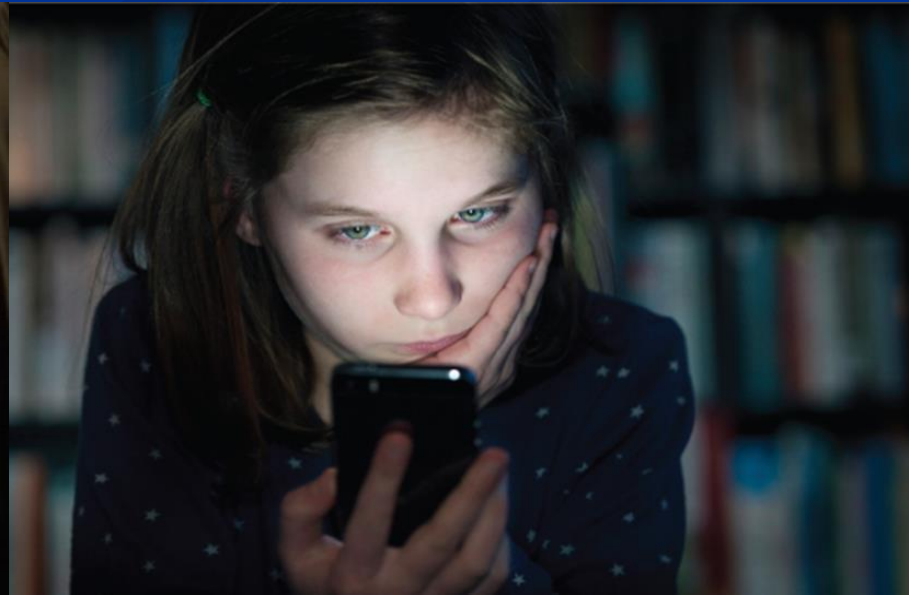
2 Corinthians 7:1





# Begin With the End in Mind

Christ-centered parenting/parents will seek to protect their child from everything that contaminates body and spirit, equipping them to pursue holiness out of reverence for God.



# Begin With the End in Mind

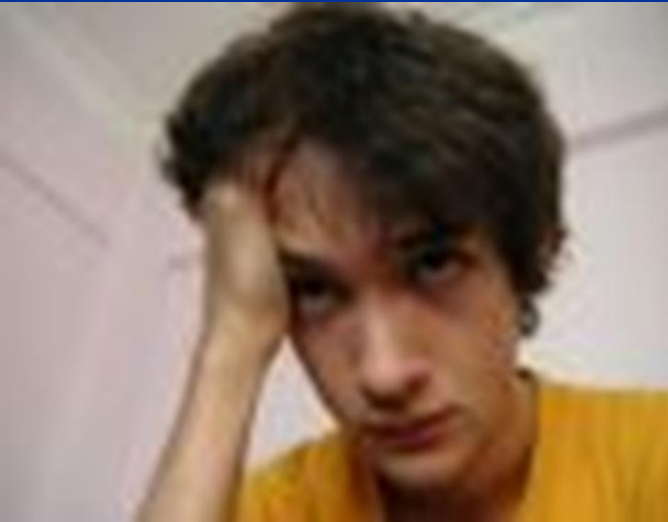
Christ-centered parenting equips your child to love God more and helps them reflect the character of his Son more precisely.



# Begin With the End in Mind

How to Raise a Child to Be a Troubled, Difficult, or Otherwise Rebellious Teen?

- Un- or Under-involved Parents
- Negative Peer Pressure
- Boredom





# Strengths and Challenges of Youth Ministry

## Perception of Challenges:

- 34% of youth leaders identify a lack of parent interest as a challenge.
- 74% of youth leaders say teen busyness is the main challenge to ministry; yet 58% of parents say their child's balance of activities "is good" and 31% say their teen needs more to do.



# Strengths and Challenges of Youth Ministry

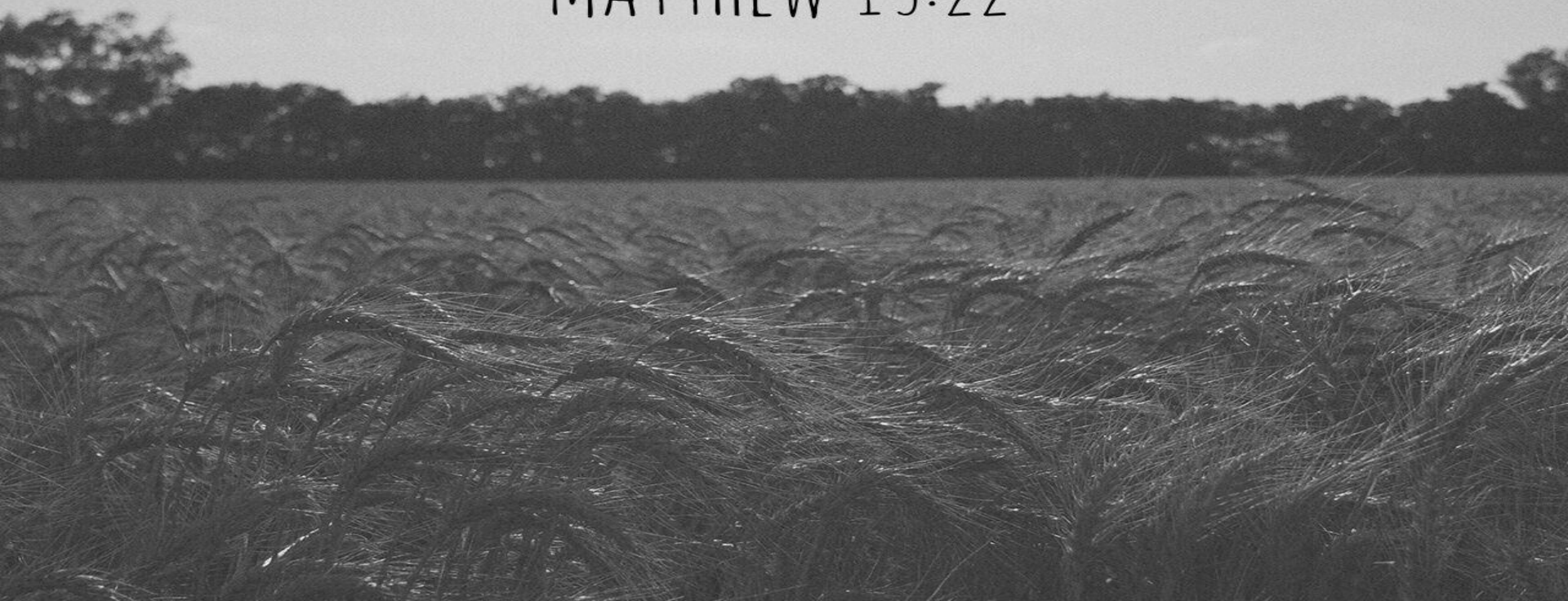
## Perception of Challenges:

- Only 38% of church-attending parents consider involvement in youth group activities to be more important than extra-curricular activities.



NOW HE WHO RECEIVED SEED AMONG THE THORNS  
IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD, AND THE CARES OF  
THIS WORLD AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES  
CHOKES THE WORD, AND HE BECOMES UNFRUITFUL.

MATTHEW 13:22





# Begin With the End in Mind

What has priority in your/your child's life? To:

- Maintain a high GPA so they can get into the college of their choice?
- Graduate near the top of their class to obtain good college scholarship.
- Be happy, stay out of trouble, and enjoy their teenage years.
- Excel in extracurricular activities (athletics, band, etc.) and build a strong resume for college admission.
- Possess and pursue a personal faith as a believer, seeker and disciple of Christ.



dear mr. wages,  
 you have helped me  
 grow and look at myself,  
 for this i thank you. i  
 wish you the ~~very~~ best  
 in your schooling and the  
 rest of your life. i'll miss  
 your cornball jokes and  
 your goal raps.

love,  
 Gaiya  
 W. Miller

P.S. i have  
 so  
 much  
 more  
 to go!

me when  
 1st came in  
 ↓

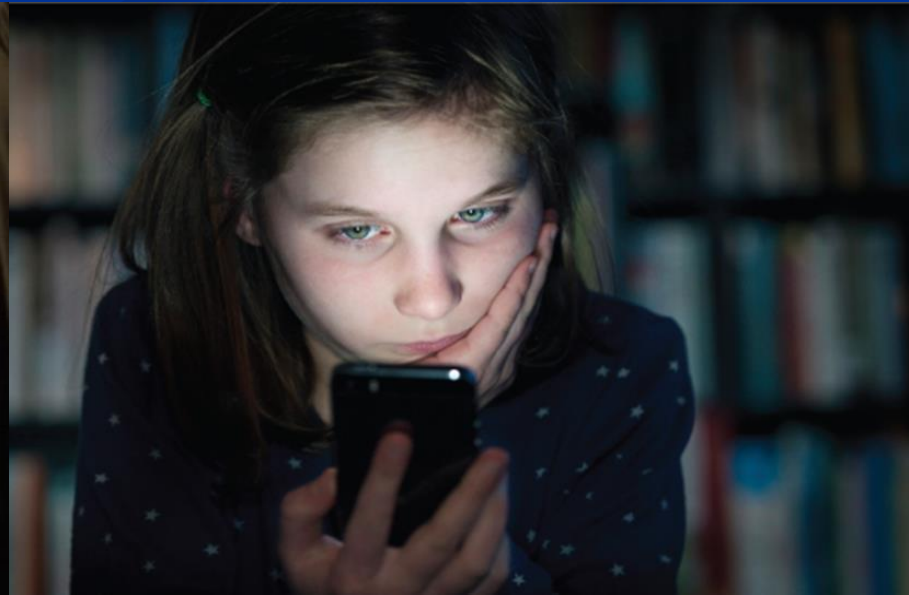
↑  
 me.  
 growing

me  
 now →



# Begin With the End in Mind

Christ-centered parenting/parents will seek to protect their child from everything that contaminates body and spirit, equipping them to pursue holiness out of reverence for God.

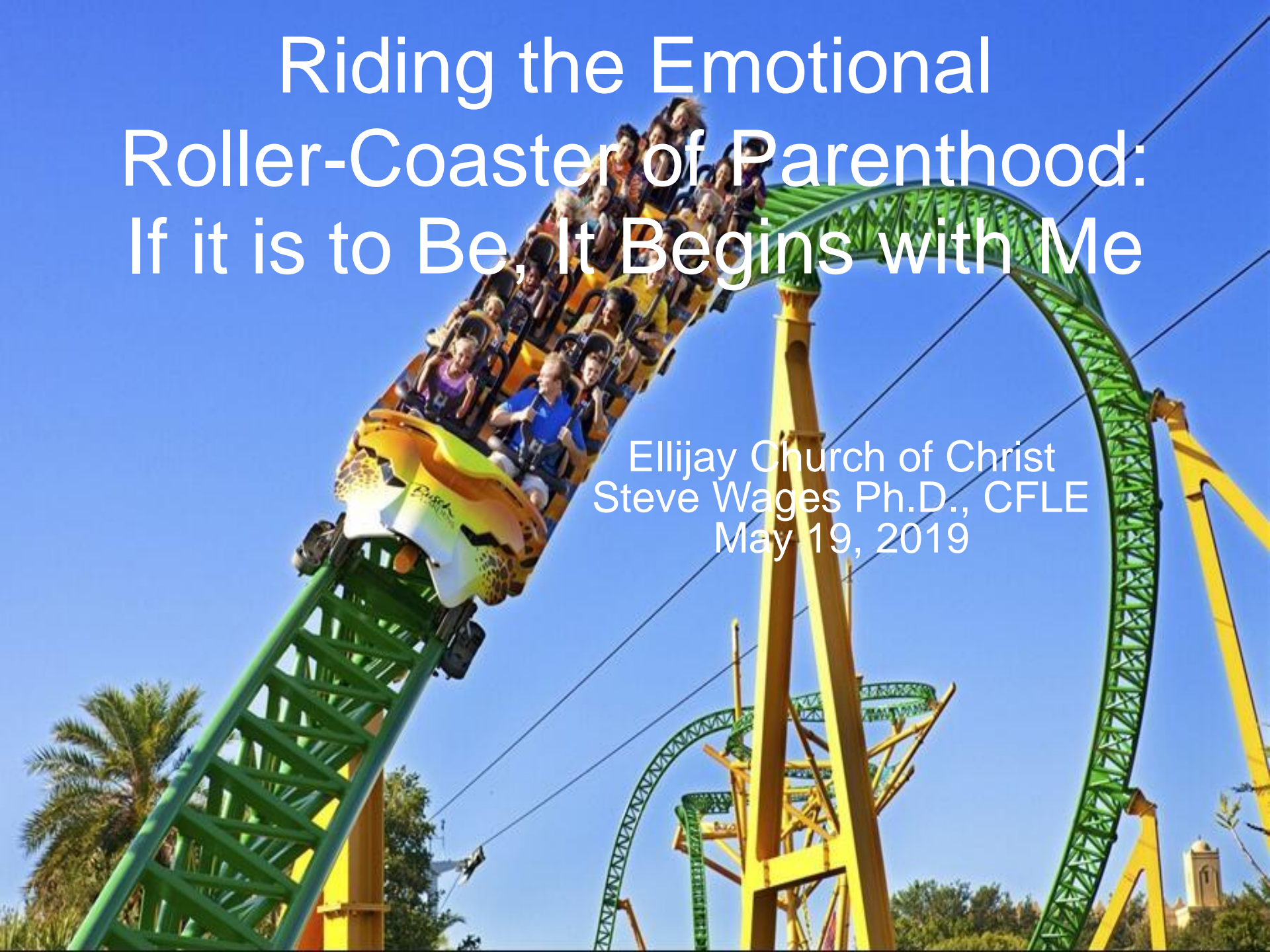




# Begin With the End in Mind

Christ-centered parenting equips your child to love God more and helps them reflect the character of his Son more precisely.



A photograph of a roller coaster car filled with people, climbing a steep green track. The car is yellow and white, and the track is supported by yellow structures. The background is a clear blue sky with some palm trees visible in the distance.

# Riding the Emotional Roller-Coaster of Parenthood: If it is to Be, It Begins with Me

Ellijay Church of Christ  
Steve Wages Ph.D., CFLE  
May 19, 2019



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 1. Emotional Bonding

- Rules minus a relationship promote rebellion.
- Rules plus a relationship promote obedience.





# How Do Parents Influence?

The most important factor in the development of competence and character, in fact throughout life not just in early childhood, is involvement in reciprocal joint activity between people who have an irrational attachment to each other. In other words, two people who are crazy about each other. Where do you find that, well its hard to find except in family, there it is routine.

Urie Bronfenbrenner  
Developmental Psychologist  
1917-2005



# How Do Parents Influence?

In order to develop normally, a child requires progressively more complex joint activity with one or more adults who have an irrational emotional relationship with the child. Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid. That's number one. First, last and always.



Urie Bronfenbrenner, Ph.D.  
Developmental Psychologist  
1917-2005

# How Do Parents Influence?

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...

Malachi 4:6





# How Do Parents Influence?

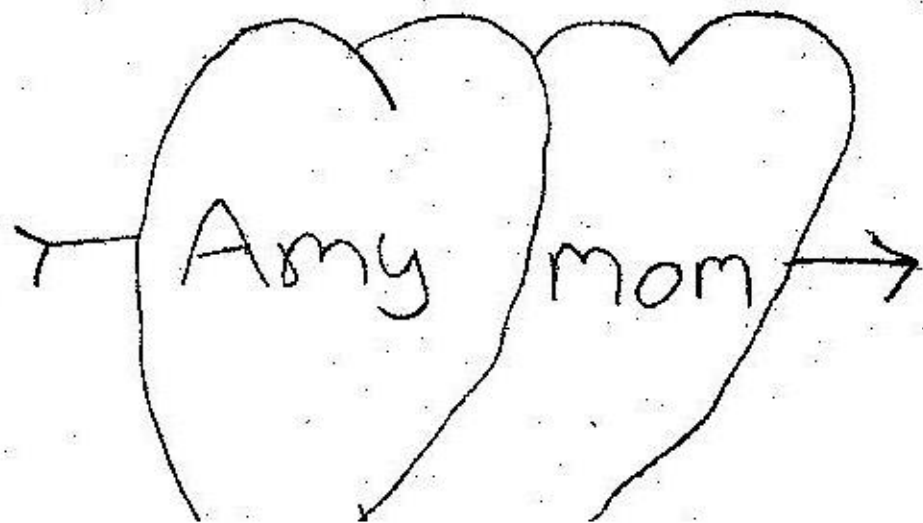
## 1. Emotional Bonding

- Verbal affirmation of love.



to mom

I am going to run away.  
I all ready have lots of blankets and lots of clothes  
I now that you now why I am going but just  
incase I'll tell you. The reson I am going is  
becaus nobody loves me. Maby you can ca  
me. Love Amy



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 1. Emotional Bonding

- Verbal affirmation of love.
- Meaningful touch.





# How Do Parents Influence?

Affection is the single most important ingredient that is blended throughout the many changes produced by time and circumstance. It is the common bond that gives heart and strength to the shared life. (D. Mace, 1983)



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 1. Emotional Bonding

- Verbal affirmation of love.
- Meaningful touch.
- Bonding experiences.





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

- The Formula is Simple:  
*Less Time=Less Influence*

Point Man (Farrar, 1990)





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

- *Quality time takes place in the context of quantity time.*



You simply can't think efficiency with people. You think effectiveness with people and efficiency with things. I've tried to give ten minutes of quality time to a child or an employee to solve a problem, only to discover such efficiency creates new problems and seldom resolves the deepest concern.





# How Do Parents Influence?

When will we realize we're so powerful that we can't do our own thing without affecting everything and everyone around us?

*We can't have our cake and eat it too!*

(Smalley & Trent)





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

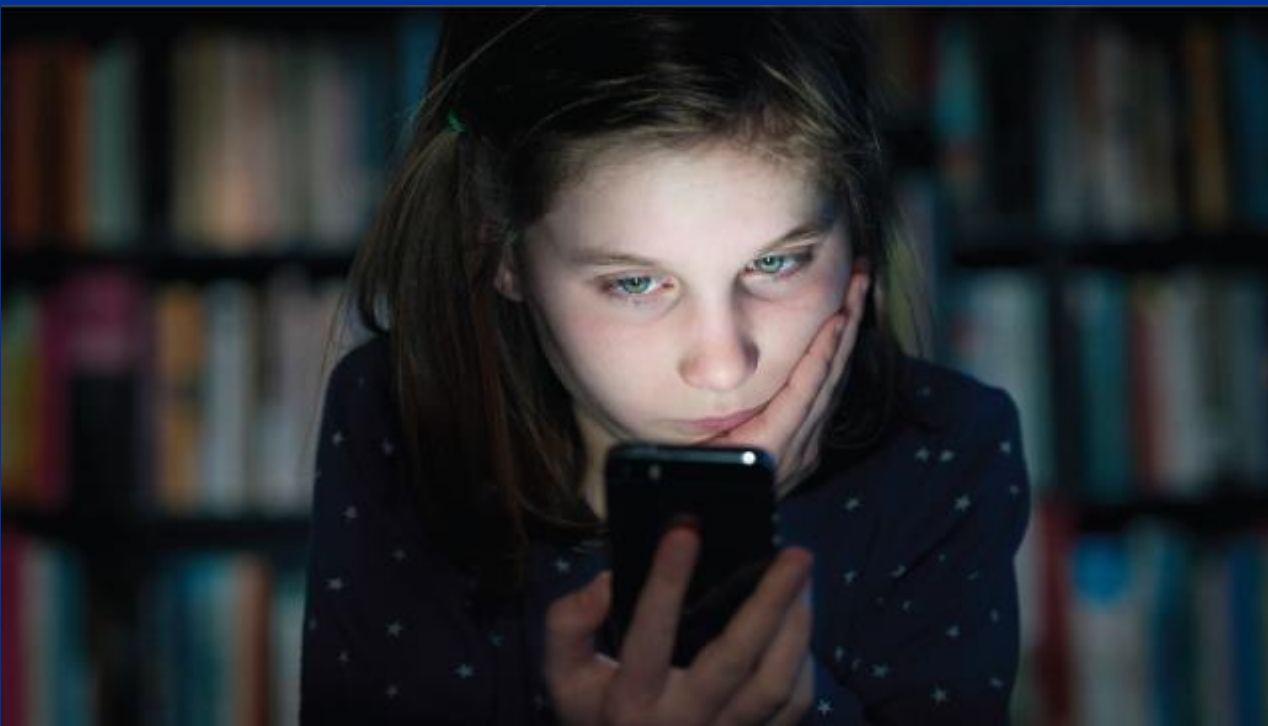
- Individual Relationship Time (IRT)



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

- Individual Relationship Time (IRT)
- Awareness



WAR ZONE

# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

- Individual Relationship Time (IRT)
- Awareness





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 2. Involvement

- Individual Relationship Time (IRT)
- Awareness



# How to Manage Social Media?

Study who is influencing your child's life?

- Be a student of their culture.
- Watch what they watch.
- Listen to what they listen to.
- Read what they read.
- See what they see.

(J. Burns, 2019)





# How to Manage Social Media?

The technology crisis-what should we do?

- Evaluate everything kids see and hear.
- Examine your own behavior-they imitate you.
- Enter into a dialogue, not monologue re the need for parameters.
- Develop boundaries, expectations, and an internet usage contract.

(J. Burns, 2019)





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models



### Role Models

The importance they play in our children's development and how to help them choose wisely.

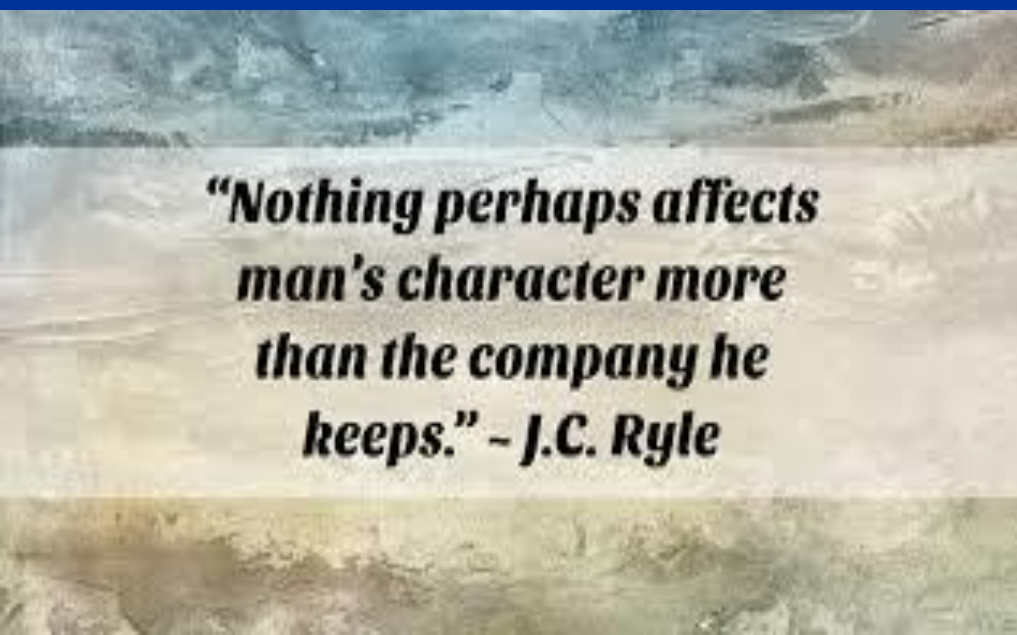


# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Proverbs 18:24



***“Nothing perhaps affects  
man’s character more  
than the company he  
keeps.” - J.C. Ryle***

# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

*Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals.*



I Cor. 15:33



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

*Walk with the wise and become wise,  
for a companion of fools suffers harm.*

Proverbs 13:2



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

*Now flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2 Timothy 2:22



**BAD AS I WANNA BE**



*[Handwritten signature in blue ink]*

**Bad**  
As I Wanna Be



DENNIS RODMAN \* JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT \* LISA MCCREE \* PAUL BEGALA \* SHAWN COLVIN \* MOMI SHIHAB ME \* STEPHAN PYLES \* THOMAS O. HICKS \* LUIS JIMENEZ \* T.D. JAMES

SPECIAL ISSUE

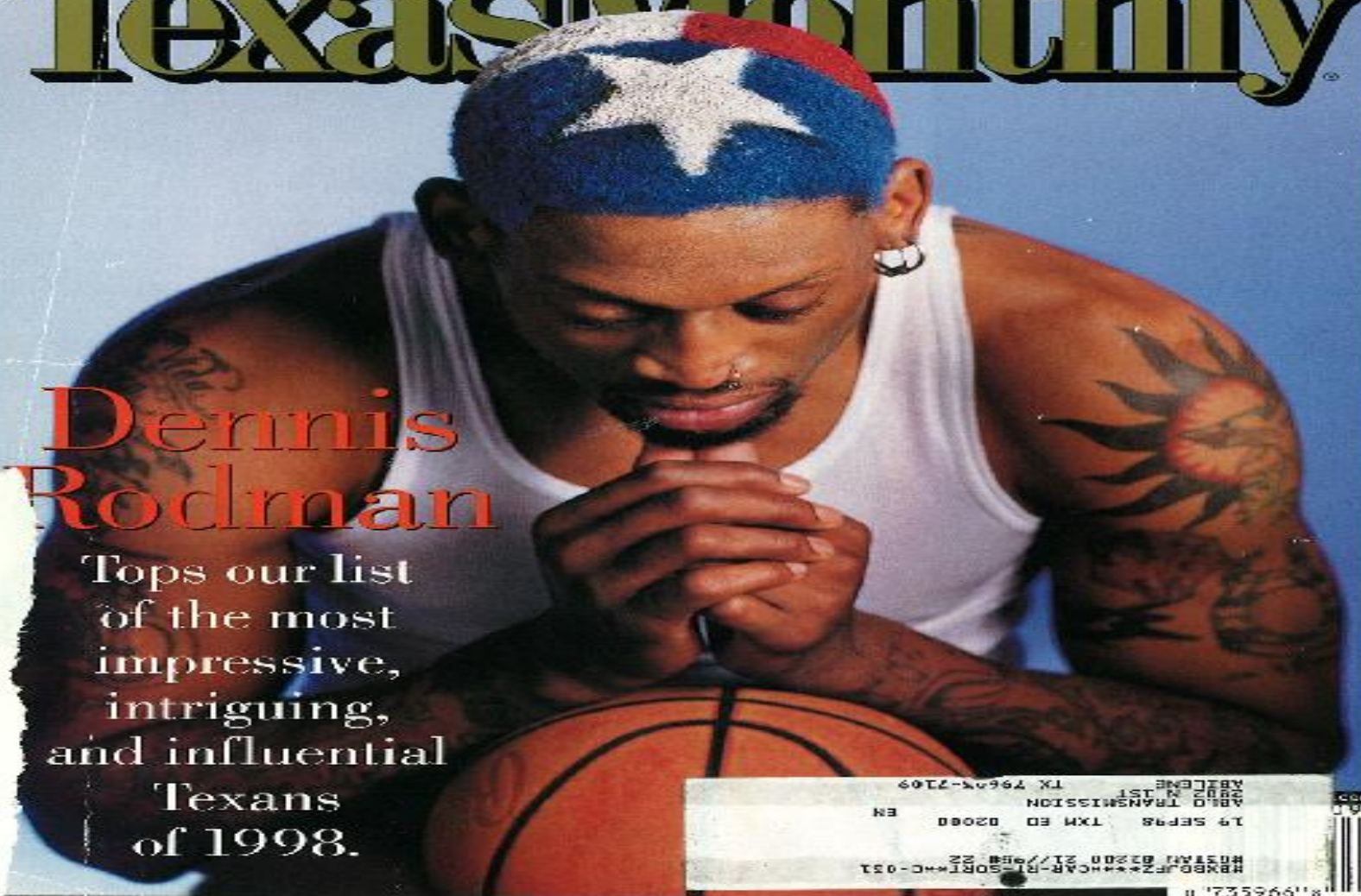
# The TEXAS TWENTY

# Texas Monthly

JOHN ROMERO \* JACK ROTH \* DIANA NYALACHO \* TOM JOYNER

## Dennis Rodman

Tops our list of the most impressive, intriguing, and influential Texans of 1998.



19 SEP 98 1PM ED 0200 EN  
ABILENE TX 79601-2109  
ABILENE 1ST  
ABILENE TRANSMISSION  
HBBGJFZ\*\*HHCAR-N1-SORT\*\*MC-051  
HBBGJFZ\*\*HHCAR-N1-SORT\*\*MC-051  
HBBGJFZ\*\*HHCAR-N1-SORT\*\*MC-051  
HBBGJFZ\*\*HHCAR-N1-SORT\*\*MC-051

DRETT WILSON \* KARLA FAYE TUCKER \* TOM FORD \* JENNIFER LONG





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

*If it is to be, it begins with me!!*





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 3. Positive Role-Models

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day.  
I'd rather you walk with me than merely point  
the way. The eye is a more ready pupil than  
ever was the ear. Good advice is often  
confusing, but example is always clear.

Edgar Guest



# Mentoring Your Child

It's not (*only*) in what we say and teach, but in what we are and do, lies the power of training. It is not our wishes or our theory, but our will and our practice that we really train. It is by living the Christ-life that we prove that we love it, that we have it; and thus will influence the young mind to love it and to have it too.



# Keeping Teens Connected to God and Church

*A young person's primary avenue for learning is social. They watch others and then learn in relationship through modeling of adults and through conversations that explain the "why" behind what was observed. If adult leaders are close enough for young people to see them live out a Christ-centered faith, then there is greater opportunity for learning, for spiritual growth and faithfulness, for direction and redirection, and for support during difficulties.*

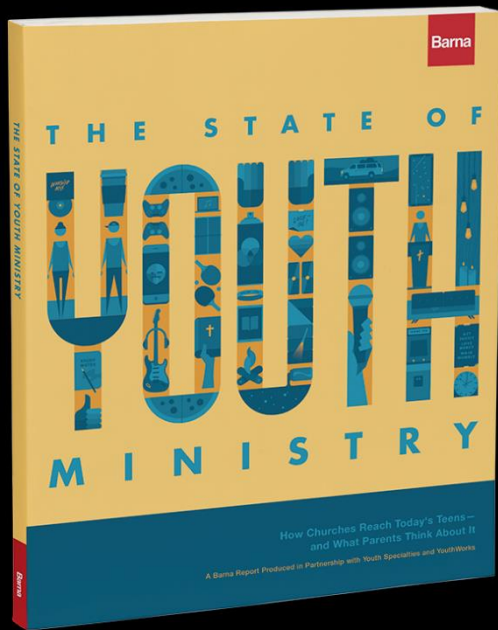


Terry Linhart, Ph.D.  
Professor of Christian Ministries  
Bethel College



# Q&A: Ministry Practices

What are some practical ways that youth ministers can create a culture where spiritual instruction takes hold and has an impact?



S.G. Ketcham, Ph.D.  
Professor of Christian Ministries,  
Gordon College

# Keeping Teens Connected to God and Church

*When parents, youth ministers and church leaders recognize and help teen's imagine how they might contribute to God's redemptive movement in the world, and find a place in the church for teenagers to practice using their gifts, teenagers will find a meaningful purpose in the church. The busyness of teens is connected to the longing of adults to help "problematized" teenagers make it into adulthood. Imagine if we saw teenagers as Christ does; full of potential to join God's purpose.*



S. G. Ketcham, Ph.D.  
Professor of  
Christian Ministries

# Keeping Teens Connected to God and Church

*Mission statements for youth ministries rarely include a focus on the teenager's relationship with the church. If we do not believe it to be a vital relationship, then we should not be surprised when teens leave the church after high school. Leaders might connect them to Jesus but what happened to connecting them to the church?*



S.G. Ketcham Ph.D.  
Professor of Christian Ministries



# Keeping Teens Connected to God and Church

*If connecting teens to the church is vital, then sermons will include relevant illustrations for teenagers, teens will contribute to the main worship, and programming for teens will cease to occur simultaneously with adult services.*

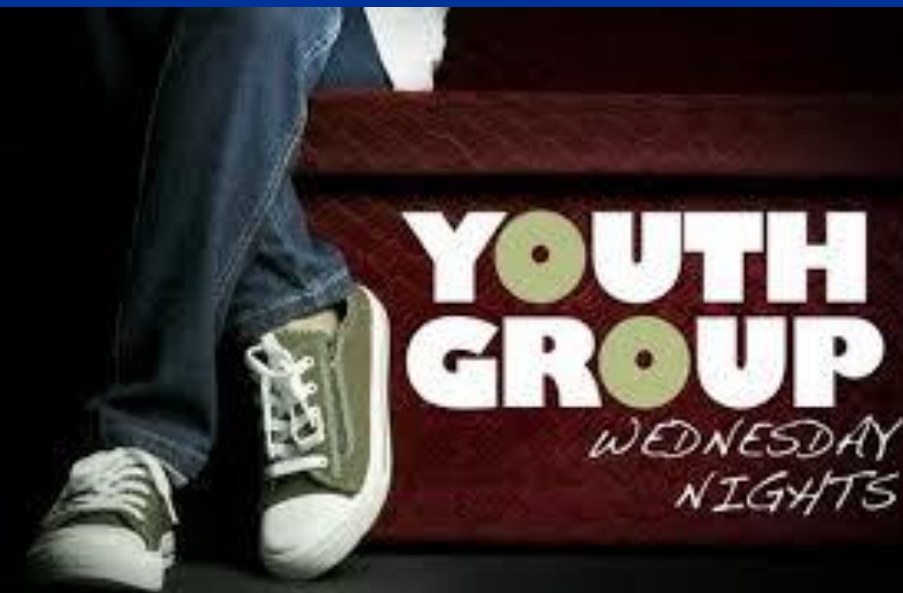
S.G. Ketcham Ph.D.  
Professor of Christian Ministries



# Youth Ministry Practices

## Activities:

- 56% report taking teens to youth conferences.
- Only 23% of youth leaders list prayer groups as a regular activity.



# Positive Role-Models: Managing Peer Interactions





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 4. Recreational Companions

- The pleasure principle.
- Parenting is teaching your children to find pleasure in the right things.



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 4. Recreational Companions

*A Godly man will find his greatest sense of identity, his greatest sense of masculinity in Christ.*



ESPN.COM

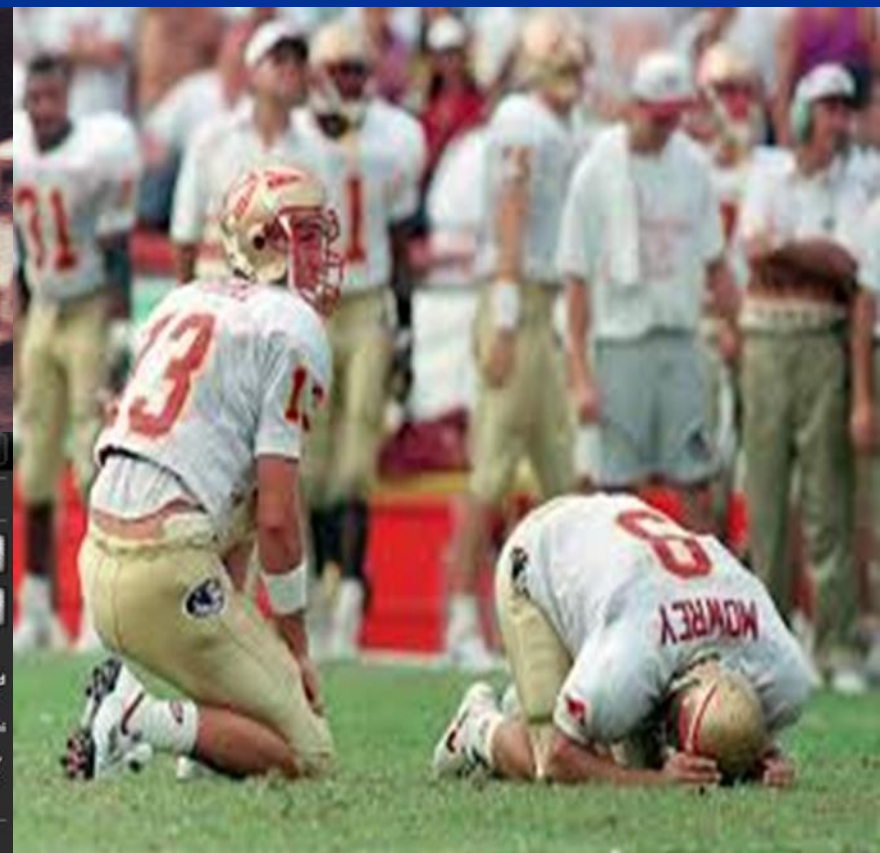
### Wide Right I

U > Miami 17

Florida State 16

Nov. 16, 1991: Wide Right I, the first of Bobby Bowden's field goal agonies at the hands of the Hurricanes. The Seminoles spent all season ranked No. 1 and led their hated rivals 16-7 in the fourth quarter, but a Miami rally left FSU behind with three minutes left. The Noles marched to the Miami 17 in the final minute, and Bowden sent in Gerry Thomas. Thomas' 34-yard attempt fluttered barely outside the right upright, leaving Bowden stunned. The devilish detail: That season, the NCAA had narrowed the goal posts by 4 feet, 10 inches.

Share Comment Send to Friend





# Your Identity is in Christ

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12





# Your Identity is in Christ

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:27



CLOTHED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

# Your Child's Identity is in Christ

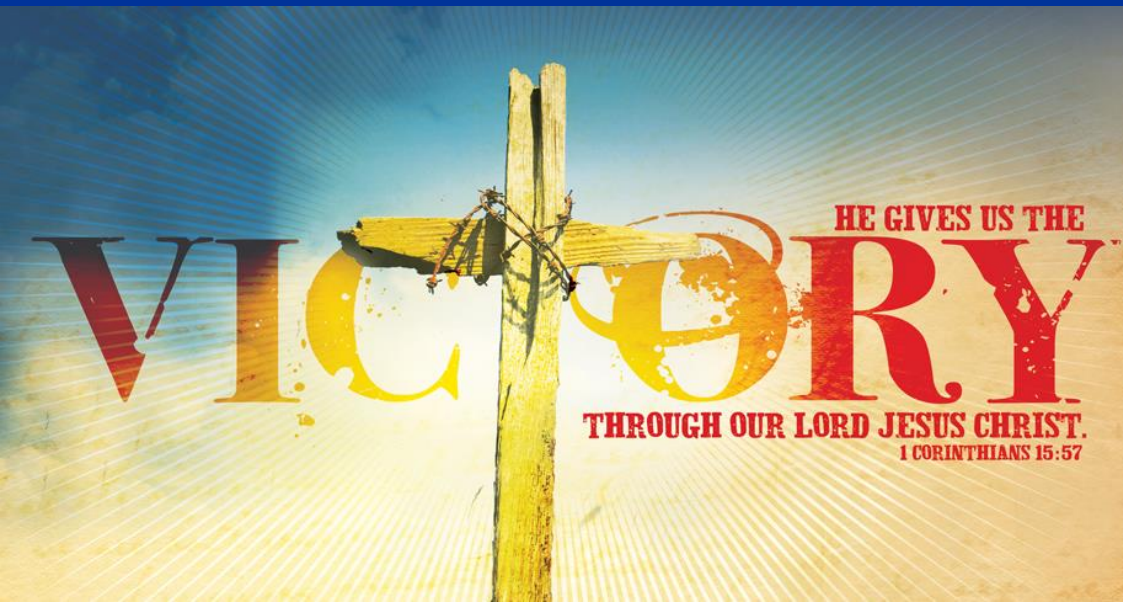
He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Ephesians 1:5



# Your Victory is in Christ

Everyone that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.



I John 5:1-4



# Your Child's Victory is in Christ

**BUT THANKS BE  
TO GOD!  
HE GIVES US  
THE VICTORY  
THROUGH  
OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST.**

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:57**

# How Do Parents Influence?

## 5. Work Companions

If a man doesn't work neither should he eat.

II Thess. 3:10

*An idle body is the devil's workshop!*





# Transitions in Lifestyle

One of the most significant effects of age-segregation in our society has been the isolation of children from the world of work. Whereas in the past children not only saw what their parents did for a living but even shared substantially in the task, many children nowadays have only a vague notion of the nature of their parent's job, and have had little or no opportunity to observe their parents, or for that matter any other adult, when he is fully engaged in his work.

Urie Bronfenbrenner





# Transitions in Lifestyle

In the United States, it is now possible for a person 18 years of age, female as well as male, to graduate from high school, college, or a university without ever having cared for, or even held, a baby; without ever having comforted or assisted another human being who really needed help. . . . No society can long sustain itself unless its members have learned the sensitivities, motivations, and skills involved in assisting and caring for other human beings.

Urie Bronfenbrenner



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 5. Work Companions

*The number one missing link in parenting today.*



30 Service Projects  
for Kids



# How to Raise a Child to Be a Troubled, Difficult, or Otherwise Rebellious Teen

## ■ **Un- or Under-involved Parents**

1. Emotional Bonding Experiences
2. Individual Relationship Time

## ■ **Negative Peer Pressure**

3. Positive Role Models

## ■ **Boredom**

4. Recreational Companions
5. Work Companions



A photograph of a roller coaster car filled with people, positioned on a steep green track. The car is yellow and white, and the track is supported by yellow structures. The background is a clear blue sky with some palm trees visible in the lower left. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Riding the Emotional Roller-Coaster of Parenthood: Spiritual Formation and Character Development

Ellijay Church of Christ  
Steve Wages, Ph.D., CFLE  
May 19, 2019

# How Do Parents Influence?

## 6. Parents as Teachers

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.

Deuteronomy 4:9



# How Do Parents Influence?

My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way of life.

Proverbs 6: 20-23





# A Promise to Teach

## What character is not:

- Character is not what a man professes to be.
- Character is not reputation.
- Character is not a well known event in one's life.
- Character is not being a well-gifted person.
- Character is not keeping company with the right people.
- Character is not having thoughts of goodness.

# What is Character?

Character is that quality that reflects core beliefs and values which motivate our behavior, choices or attitudes...  
distinguishing between right and wrong.



Josephson Institute

# What is Character?

When we think about the kind of character we want for our children, it's clear that we want them to be able to judge what is right, care deeply about what is right, and then do what they believe to be right—even in the face of pressure from without and temptation within.

Thomas Lickona





# What is Character?

## Moral Discipline:

The most basic element of character is moral discipline; its most essential feature is the inner capacity for restraint—an ability to inhibit oneself in one's passions, desires, and habits within the boundaries of a moral order.



James Hunter (2001)

# What is Character?

## Moral Discipline:

The most basic element of character is moral discipline; its most essential feature is the inner capacity for restraint—an ability to inhibit oneself in one's passions, desires, and habits within the boundaries of a moral order...it is the capacity to say

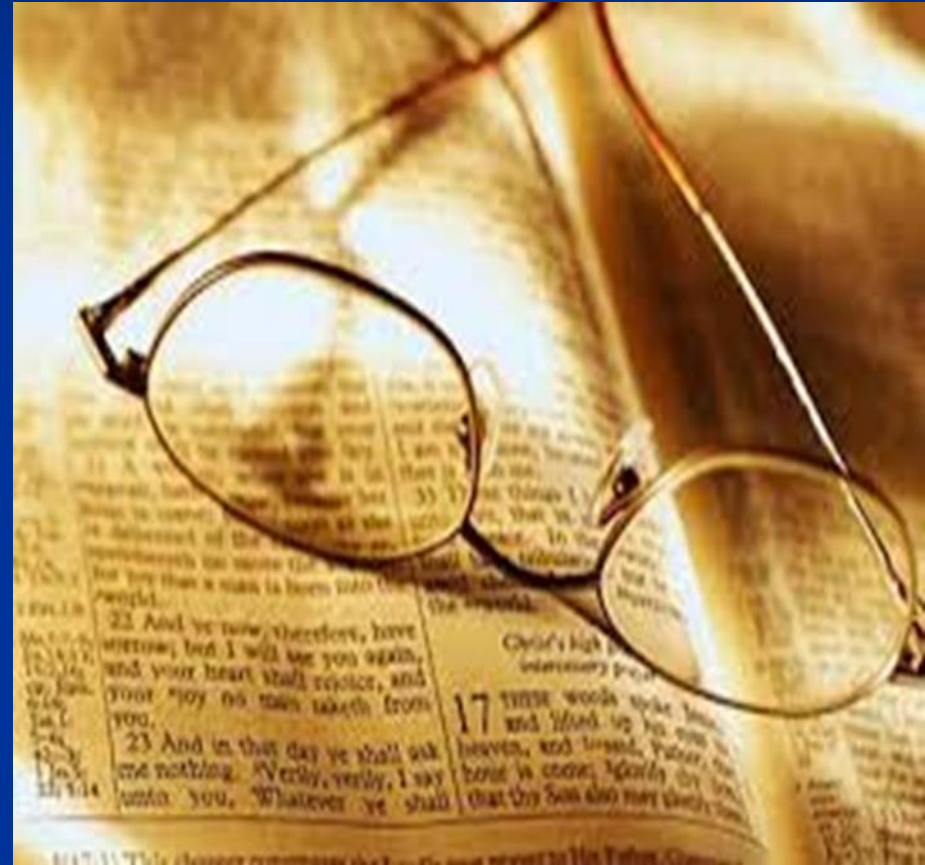
**NO!**

James Hunter (2001)

# How Do Parents Influence?

## 6. Teachers: What do you teach?

- Responsibility
- Caring
- Fairness
- Respect
- Trustworthiness
- Citizenship
- Life-Skills



Galatians 5:22-23



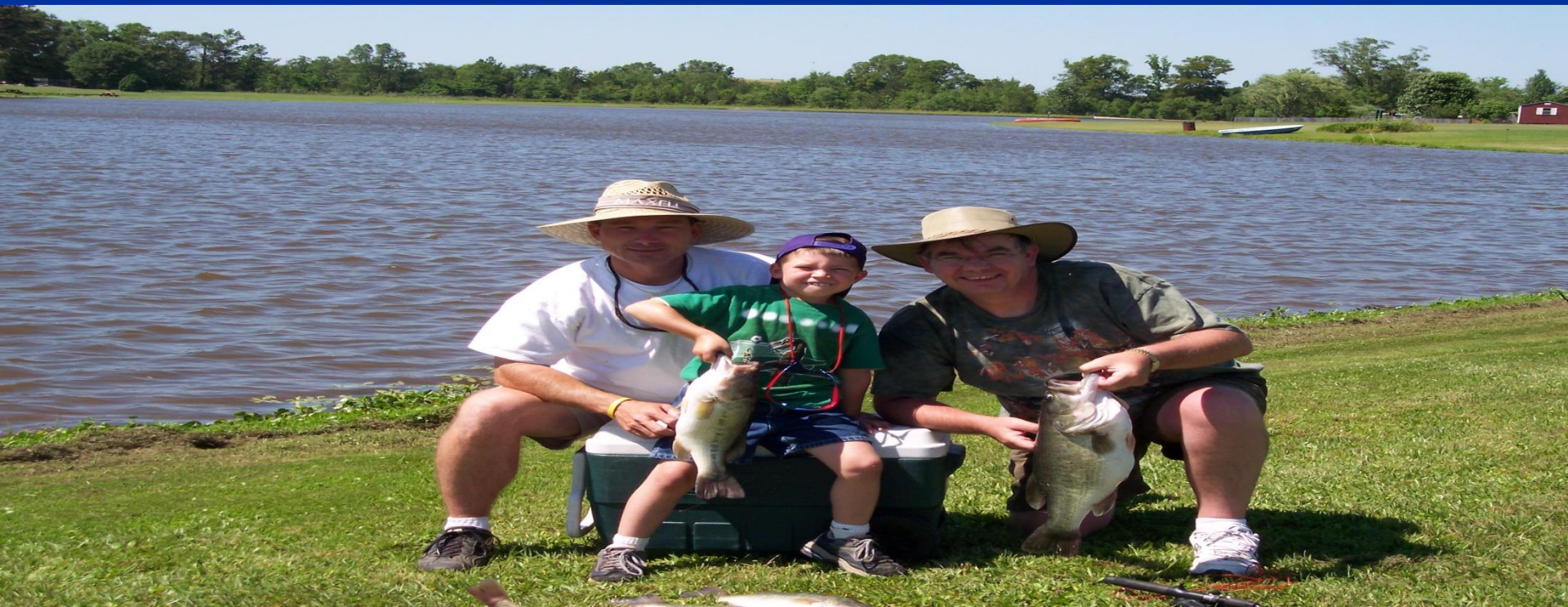
# How Do You Teach

Remember:

Tell me and I forget.

Show me and I may remember.

Involve me and I understand.





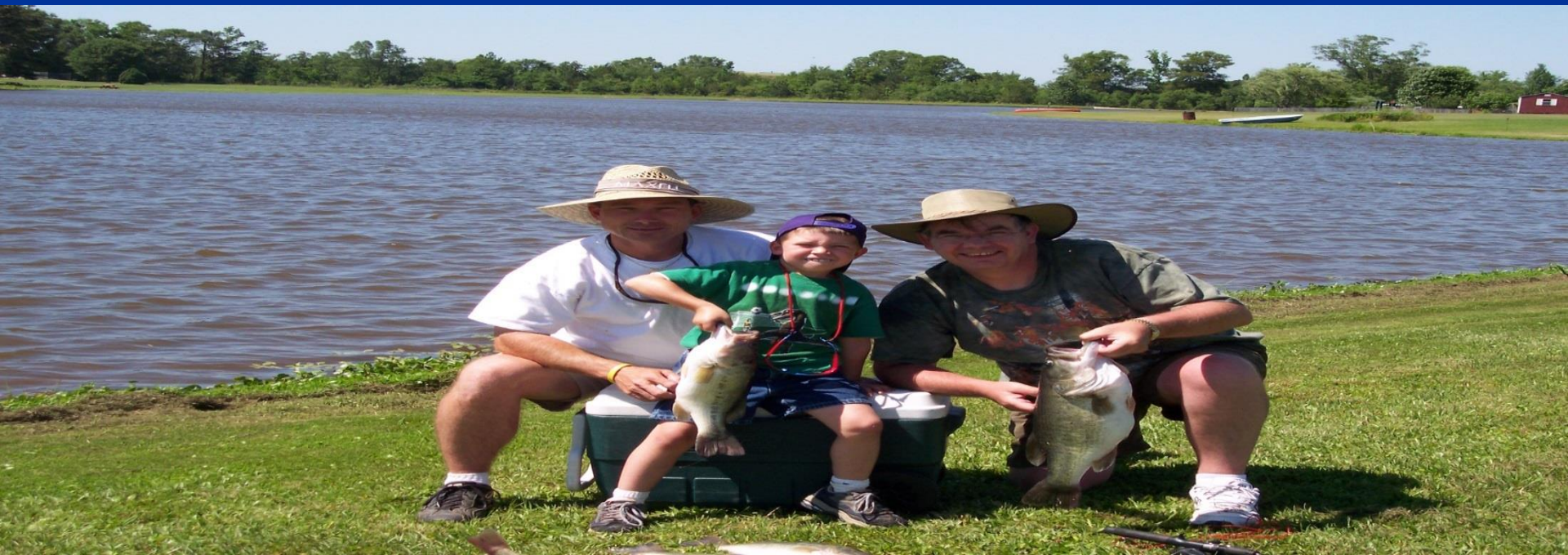
# How Do You Teach

Remember:

People may not remember what you tell them.

People may not remember what you do.

People seldom forget how you make them feel.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring: Define Caring

- Be kind, loving and considerate,
- Give time, support, comfort or money to make someone's life better,
- Identify and help people in need,
- Be compassionate and empathetic,
- Be thankful and express gratitude for what people do for you.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

- What Bible stories would be great to teach your child what it means to be caring?
- What videos would be useful for teaching caring to your children?
- What creative learning experiences can you use to teach your children what it means to be caring?



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Cut strips of paper and allow your children to write on a strip every time they demonstrate caring behaviors. When you see your child do something nice for someone or for you, allow them to write it on a strip of paper.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Link the strips of paper to form a chain. When the chain reaches a specified length, treat your child to something they enjoy! Building a chain of kindness will help children become aware of their acts of kindness.





# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Pick a day to go around your neighborhood and ask if there are any odd jobs you and your children can help with. Whether it is raking leaves or painting a fence; you can teach children to care for others. Another idea is to go down to the soup kitchen and serve those in need. This will teach them to care for the poor just as Christ set the example for us to do.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Every Sunday afternoon after church, my mom had us pick two names out of the prayer list and write notes of encouragement. We made the cards from scratch and drew pictures. Once a month we got to go and visit someone from that list that was in the hospital.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Volunteering at a nursing home would teach children about caring for the elderly. Doing activities such as playing board games with them, reading to them, listening to them tell stories from their past, etc. would teach children how to care for the elderly.





# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

Sit down with your child and talk about the people in your neighborhood or church family who are going through a difficult time. Maybe it is sickness, the death of a loved one, or financial difficulty; it is important to let your child know that they are in need. Spend an afternoon baking cookies or a food item with your child to deliver to the person in need. Your child will benefit from showing an act of kindness to someone else and from spending one on one time with you!

# Try This at Home

## Teach Caring:

A good activity that would foster caring in your children during the holidays is to have your child adopt a Christmas angel and instead of going to the store to buy the angel a gift, your child could give them one of his or her toys instead. Also, during Thanksgiving your child could help you bake his or her favorite meal and take it to a needy family.

# Try This at Home

## Teach Respect:

With the help of your children, establish a household Code of Conduct. On one side of a piece of paper or poster board, list or paste pictures of unacceptable behaviors (examples: yelling, hitting, fighting). On the opposite side, list the corresponding punishment for such behavior. When a child breaks a code, ask them to point out which one they have violated.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Fairness:

Play board games with your children (checkers, Sequence, Monopoly, etc.). They will treasure the quality time spent with you, and you will have plenty of opportunities to clarify what it means to play fair and abide by the rules.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Fairness:

When you only have one candy bar, etc., ask your children how to divide it fairly. Allow one child to divide the candy bar and allow the other child to choose which half they want first.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Trustworthiness:

Have some cookies sitting out on a plate (know the exact number). Tell your children that they can only have one cookie. Leave the kitchen and do not come back for about 15 minutes. When you come back ask each child



how many cookies they ate. Ask them if you can trust them? Then count the cookies!



# Try This at Home

## Teach Respect:

Have each child draw a picture of themselves and then write a list of things they like about themselves on the back. Next, have the children get in a circle and pass around one another's self-portraits. Each child shares a compliment and then writes the compliment on the back of the other person's portrait. They are learning

to respect and enhance others while at the same time accepting compliments about themselves.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Respect:

A good way to teach respect for the elderly is to have your children make a puzzle with their grandparents. Puzzles are great because you can really build some teamwork in doing them. Mom and dad would take their children to a retirement community or nursing home to read the local newspaper with the men there.

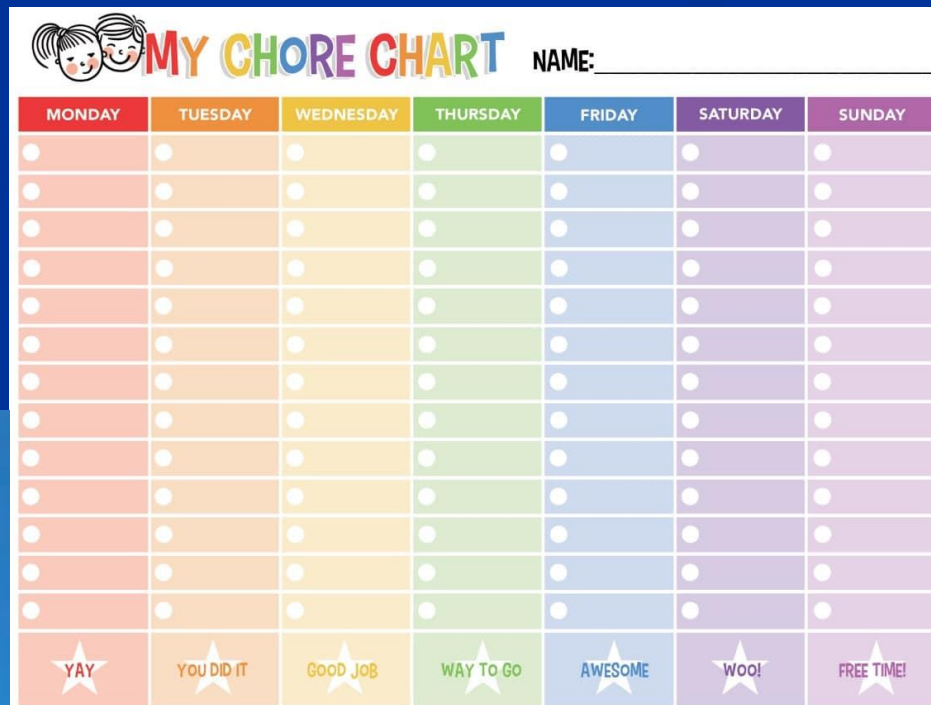


Respect

# Try This at Home

## Teach Responsibility:

Help children make a chore chart and provide a reasonable “allowance” for chores completed on time. If the chores are not completed on time take the money and hire a sibling to complete the chores.



The chart features a header with two cartoon children's faces, the text "MY CHORE CHART", and a blank line for "NAME:". The main grid has seven columns for the days of the week: MONDAY (orange), TUESDAY (yellow), WEDNESDAY (light green), THURSDAY (green), FRIDAY (blue), SATURDAY (purple), and SUNDAY (pink). There are ten rows of empty cells for tracking. Below the grid, each column contains a celebratory phrase in a starburst: "YAY", "YOU DID IT", "GOOD JOB", "WAY TO GO", "AWESOME", "WOO!", and "FREE TIME!".

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•

# Responsibility



# Try This at Home

## Teach Responsibility:

Have children do four things with their “allowance”: (1) save money, (2) do something nice for someone else, (3) put a contribution in the collection plate, and (4) do something for themselves.





# Try This at Home

## Teach Responsibility:

A good method for teaching children responsible behavior is with the use of stories. Most children are enthusiastic when it comes to having someone read them a story. Select books that teach life-lessons such as *Grandpa Remembers* by Robert Hall. Then discuss what you read with an emphasis on good character traits.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Responsibility:

When a child behaves in a responsible way they get a magnetic letter from the word responsibility and put it on the refrigerator. When they have every letter spelling responsibility they get to do something they enjoy or have a treat.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Responsibility:

Pets are a wonderful way to teach responsibility. Involve the child in the process of picking out a pet and educate them on the responsibilities he or she will have for their proper care. It is a good idea to begin with gold fish because you will probably have to flush a few as your child learns the meaning of responsibility.



# Try This at Home

## Teach Citizenship:

Teach your children the importance of taking care of the environment by collecting aluminum cans for recycling or spend an afternoon picking up litter in your neighborhood.





# Try This at Home

## Teach Citizenship:

Brainstorm ideas of things your family can do that helps the community. These might include: collecting goods to give to the local food bank, picking up trash while taking a walk in the evening, or helping an elderly person with home repairs. Every time someone does something, that family member is to put a marble in a jar. Once the jar is full, the whole family gets to do something fun like eating out, going to a movie together, etc.

# Try This at Home

## Teach Citizenship:

Another idea is to have a garage sale and donate all the money you make to a local charity.

# Try This at Home

## Teach Citizenship:

Help your neighbors with a clean up day.

Parents can read laws posted in public places and explain them.

Children can memorize facts about America.

Children can be taught the pledge of allegiance.

Pray for our country and it's leaders.

Recycling encourages environmental awareness.



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 7. The One-Minute Parent/Teacher

- One-minute goal-setting.
- One-minute praising.
- One-minute reprimands.



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 8. Establish Daily Routines and Schedules

### Daily Routine

*Hello!  
My name is  
Garfield.  
I'm here to show  
my daily routine.  
Are you ready?*



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 8. Establish Daily Routines and Schedules

- Study time.
- IRT/FAM time
- Chore time.
- Nap time.
- Play time.
- Reading time.
- Alone time.
- Music time.
- Bible/prayer/church time.

Garfield takes a shower





# How Do Parents Influence?

## 8. Rules for Schedule Development

- Seek child's input.
- Display schedule in a prominent place.
- Alternate pleasant & unpleasant activities.
- Be sensitive to the length of activities.
- Use desired activities to reinforce less desired activities.
- Avoid revising a schedule.
- Reinforce child's efforts to complete task.

# How Do Parents Influence?

With respect to schedule development, the Premack Principle suggests:

1. use a desired activity to reinforce an activity the child does not want to perform,
2. use high frequency behavior (e.g., video games) to increase low frequency behavior (e.g., homework),
3. alternate pleasant and unpleasant activities in the child's schedule,



# How Do Parents Influence?

With respect to schedule development, the Premack Principle suggests:

4. use high interest materials (e.g., baseball cards) to teach low interest skills and concepts (e.g., math),
5. upon completing an undesirable activity, the child is allowed to select from a range/menu of desirable activities.



**FEEL FREE  
TO WASTE MY  
VALUABLE TIME**



# How to Raise a Child to Be a Troubled, Difficult, or Otherwise Rebellious Teen

## ■ **Un- or Under-involved Parents**

1. Individual Relationship Time
2. Emotional Bonding Experiences
3. Parenting Styles (Parent/Child Relationship)

## ■ **Negative Peer Pressure**

4. Positive Role Models
5. Character Education

## ■ **Boredom**

6. Recreational Companions
7. Work Companions
8. Daily Routines and Schedules

# How Do Parents Influence?

## Reality Discipline

- Establish a healthy authority over your children.
- Hold your children accountable for their actions (use rewards/privileges to teach accountability and responsibility).
- Let reality be the teacher.
- Use actions, not words.
- Stick to your guns.
- Remember, relationships come before rules.

# Arguments Against Spanking

1. Negative, hurtful, painful, dominance can lead to the child to be anxious, apprehensive, suspicious, distrustful and resentful.
2. Corporal Punishment (CP) invites resistance and rebellion.
3. CP teaches children about the use of power in interpersonal relationships.
4. CP undermines the self-worth of the child.

When a child hits a child, we call it  
**aggression.**

When a child hits an adult, we call it  
**hostility.**

When an adult hits an adult, we call it  
**assault.**

When an adult hits a child, we call it  
**discipline.**

*So often, children are punished for being human. Children are not allowed to have grumpy moods, bad attitudes, disrespectful tones, or bad days, yet we adults have them all the time. None of us are perfect, and we must stop holding children to a higher standard of perfection than we can attain ourselves.*



# Arguments Against Spanking

5. CP leads to the breakdown in the parent/child relationship.
6. CP leads the child to avoid the source of punishment (i.e., parent).
7. CP focuses the child's attention away from the misbehavior and on to the act of punishment.
8. CP contributes to the creation of character defects such as lying, defiance or being clever.



# Arguments For Spanking

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

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

Do not withhold 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. (Proverbs 23:13-14)

# Arguments For Spanking

1. It works!
2. It works when there is a strong bond or attachment with the authority figure. This bond mitigates/alleviates many of the arguments against spanking.
3. It works when it is timely. Shorter time between the misbehavior and punishment is better.
4. It works when it is accompanied by a short explanation.



# Arguments For Spanking

5. It works when it is administered consistently.
6. It is appropriate in the face of out-right defiance.
7. It is appropriate to settle the issue of who is in charge.
8. It works when it is designed to remind the child of what you have already taught them.



Give your child a spanking once a day. If you don't know why, he does.

— *Sam Levenson* —



# Barna's Conclusion

Key Components to Instilling a Faith in Teens That Keeps Them Connected to God and His Church

1. A meaningful mentoring relationship with at least one Christian adult who isn't their parent.
2. Learning cultural discernment, the ability to apply faith to their everyday reality.
3. Reverse mentoring, an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills with others, especially older adults.

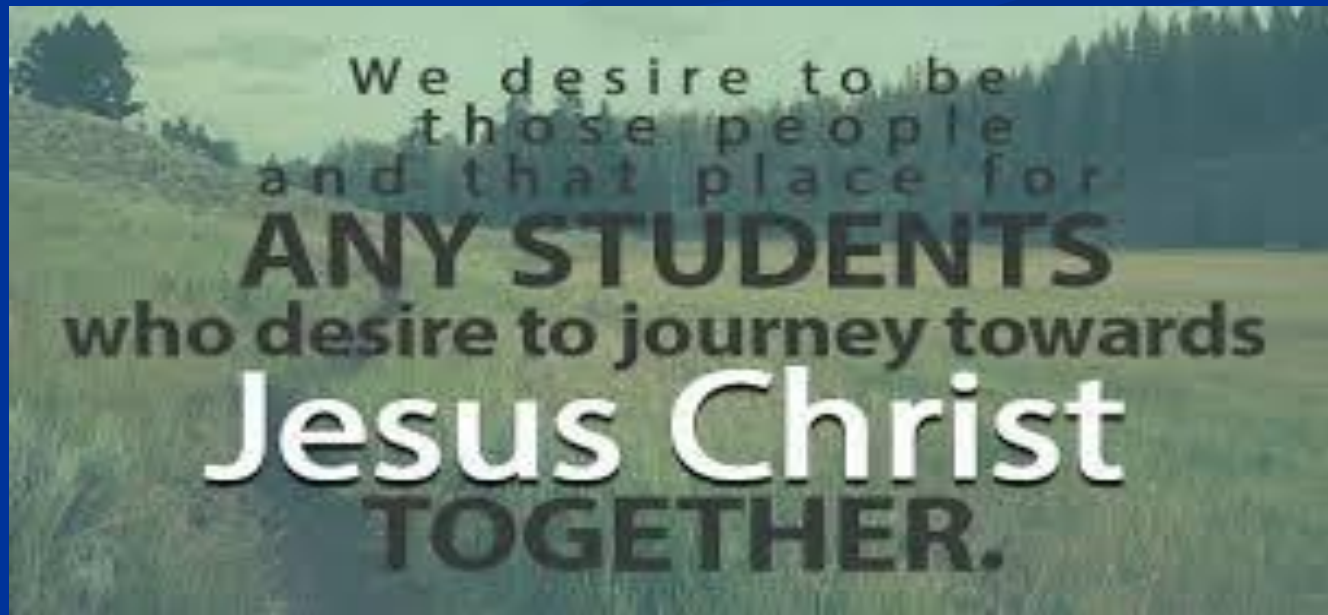


**WE EXIST TO PARTNER WITH  
PARENTS AND TEENS  
TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

# Barna's Conclusion

Key Components to Instilling a Faith in Teens That Keeps Them Connected to God and His Church

4. Vocational discipleship, an understanding of their career choices as an expression of God's calling in their lives.
5. A personal belief/experience of Jesus.



# How Do Parents Influence?

## 9. Are Prayer Warriors

- Once every day, twice on their birthday.





# A Parent's Prayer

O Heavenly Father, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Make me as attentive to them as I would have them be to me. Forbid that I should be indifferent in the face of their mistakes, may I always be mindful of the importance of my influence on their lives.





# A Parent's Prayer

Guide me day by day that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that faith produces eternal hope, character is demonstrated in righteousness, and honesty brings happiness. Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. And when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are children and I should not expect of them the judgment of adults.



# A Parent's Prayer

Let me not rob them of the opportunity to earn their own way and learn to do for themselves. Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests and the courage to deny them privileges that will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind. And fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected and imitated by my children.



# The End

