

Raising Kingdom Kids

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Spending Time with Your Children

People have asked us often how, in the city of Las Vegas, Nevada we were able to raise five children that love the Lord and all want to be involved in full time Christian service. Recently at a Missions Conference, I shared the following points that we applied in our lives.

1. _____ **for your children** _____!

I wasn't very good at family devotions. I tried to teach our children, as we went from place to place and when we were together, principles about serving the Lord but I also tried to let them hear me pray for them every day and personally I tried to remember to pray for my five children every single day. That prayer was a simple prayer. Just that they would be kept physically and mentally whole and healthy and that they would serve the Lord with their whole heart.

2. _____ **with your children**

- Every _____ - we took Monday's off as a family
- Family _____
- Whenever we could we:
 - Watched ___ with them
 - Watched _____ with them
 - We went to _____ parks
 - We went to _____
 - We spent all sorts of time with our children

You don't have to spend lots of money to have fun with your children.

- Go out to the _____
- Drive through the mountains
- Hike with the kids
- Going to the lake and swimming
- Walk through the mall with popcorn and a Coke

3. _____ **with your children in** _____

- They were _____ - if they didn't go, we didn't go
- They went _____
- We went to _____ together
- We went to _____ together when _____
or _____ were in town
- When we went out, they went out with us
- If invited to speak somewhere, they traveled with us
- We were _____ at having our kids with us in whatever we did

4. _____ **your children to** _____

*We provoked our kids to think - we did not keep our kids from the world:

- Extended family sins were discussed
- Sin within the church was discussed
- We showed them the _____ of sin

5. _____
- What we did at home, we did at church
 - We did not try to put on a _____
 - We did teach them _____ - not everything we did at home was proper at church
(We wear pajamas at home, not at church)

6. _____ **your convictions**
- James 1:5, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”*
- We said, “we don’t do that because...”
 - We said, “We do this because...”
- We gave our children the “because” of what we did and what we didn’t do.
Whether it was good reasoning or bad, they knew our reasoning

7. _____ **apologize**
- Matthew 5:23, *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee”*
- Parents are not perfect. When we did that which was wrong or they saw an inconsistency in our life, we confessed that to them so that they could see that we were not trying to be hypocrites. A child can spot a hypocrite a mile away. If they feel we are hypocrites they will reject us.

8. _____, **don’t** _____ **(don’t coddle)**
- Ephesians 6:4, *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*
- *Nurture* means _____
_____ spanking is not _____ - Explain what proper spanking is.
 - *Admonition* means _____
It was not our desire to be our children’s best friend, though we wanted them to love us more than anyone else. It was our responsibility to bring them up, so we chastened them when they needed it and we gave them all the instruction that we could.

9. _____ **together with your** _____.
- (United front)**
- We were united in front of them
Parents will not always agree on everything. These things should be talked about privately.
 - We agreed - they thought we agreed on everything
 - We would not take our children’s side against each other

10. _____ **obedience**
- Ephesians 6:1-2, *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise”*
- Instant obedience is absolutely necessary in our culture today

11. _____ away from other children that they don't do well with.

I Corinthians 15:33, "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*"

- Children are by nature sinners. If they did not do well with other children, then they did not get to hang around them

12. _____ positive _____. (Replace bad things with good things)

Philippians 4:8, "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"

- If we took away something that was negative, we tried to replace it with something that was positive.

13. _____ your child's heart

- We wanted them to know that we loved them more than anyone else and so we spent time with them, had fun with them and talked with them about everything.

I John 4:19, "*We love him, because he first loved us.*"