

SURVIVAL GUIDE *for* PARENTING

Overview:

Learn three basic principles for parenting kids so you can do more than survive....you can thrive during the parenting years!

Lessons:

1. Put God First
2. Discipline With Love
3. Affirm Your Kids



PUT GOD FIRST

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If you want to lead your kids to the promised land, follow the timeless advice of Moses to parents and grandparents. The first principle is simple: put God first.

- Parenting is like everything else in life: if you put _____ first, the rest of it falls into place. That's why our first Parenting Principle is: Put God first. Deuteronomy 5:7-21,33, Matthew 6:33
- The command to _____ applies to both parents and kids: parents obey God and kids obey parents. The fifth commandment (honor your parents) serves as a _____ between the "love God" and "love people" commandments. Deuteronomy 6:1-3, Ephesians 6:1-3
- Wholehearted obedience should impact _____ part of our lives – both personally and as a family unit. Learn to practice _____ disciplines like prayer, Bible reading, and family time. Deuteronomy 6:4-7

DISCUSSION:

1. *Did you grow up in a home with spiritual values? How have those values shaped you as a parent?*
2. *How would you describe the current spiritual climate in your home?*
3. *Do you currently make a habit of reading and praying on your own? How can your spiritual habits affect the rest of the family?*
4. *Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3. According to this passage, what is a parent's responsibility? Why does obedience lead to a blessed life?*
5. *Read Ephesians 6:1-3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes the importance of obeying parents? How does learning to obey parents help kids to obey God as adults?*
6. *Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7. Evaluate your family priorities right now. What are some practical things you can do, as a family, to pursue God together?*
7. *Check out pursuegodkids.org and pursuegod.org How can utilizing topics from these sites help to facilitate productive Family Talk time?*

DISCIPLINE WITH LOVE

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The Bible says that if you love your kids, you will lovingly discipline them.

- There's an ancient parenting paradox: those who _____ their children care enough to _____ them.
Proverbs 13:24
- Contrary to popular opinion, there is such a thing as _____ and _____. It's the parent's _____ to teach this in the home. Proverbs 22:6
- Loving discipline turns your child's heart toward _____. First they learn to honor you; later they'll learn to honor God.
Hebrews 12:11
- The 3 C's of loving discipline:
 - Clear: establish clear _____ and expectations and the consequences for each.
 - Consistent: _____ through every time a rule is broken.
 - Corrective: consequences should _____ them from making the same mistake again.

DISCUSSION:

1. *What messages have you heard regarding discipline in our culture? Do you tend to agree or disagree?*
2. *Read Proverbs 13:24. How have you seen discipline as an effective tool with your kids up to now? If done correctly, why can discipline communicate love to your kids?*
3. *Read Proverbs 22:6,15. How does discipline help to direct your kids? What are some of the foolish things you see in your kids right now? How can discipline help to correct those?*
4. *Read Hebrews 12:11. What can happen if you don't discipline your kids? How can you encourage a heart of obedience in your kids?*
5. *Talk about the 3 C's of discipline. Why is it important to be clear with your rules and expectations? What rules do you need to make clearer to your kids?*
6. *What has happened in the past when you were not consistent with consequences?*
7. *What consequences are most effective with each of your kids right now?*

AFFIRM YOUR KIDS

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Every kid – even the most challenging ones – need and deserve affirmation.

- God the Father spoke _____ about the Son twice in the gospel of Matthew. Both times it was to _____ him. Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5
- If the perfect Son of God _____ words of affirmation from his Father, how much more do our _____ kids need affirmation from their parents? Proverbs 16:24, Ephesians 4:32
- Every kid – even the most challenging ones – need and _____ affirmation.
- Remember the 3 B's: Be intentional, Be authentic, Be _____.
- Use the 3 T's of Praise:
 - Talk: use your _____ to speak love and praise over your kids.
 - Time: spend _____ with your kids and show them that they are a priority to you.
 - Touch: show _____ to your kids.

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the “love” climate in your home growing up (affectionate/affirming or cold/distant?) How have those family dynamics affected the way you express love to your kids?
2. Read Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 17:5. What stands out to you about what God said? Why was it important for him to speak those words?
3. Read Proverbs 16:24. Share a personal experience you've had with the power of positive words. How have you seen encouraging words impact your kids in the past?
4. Read Ephesians 4:32. Identify the behaviors in your kids that frustrate you. How do you need to be more tender-hearted toward your kids in those areas?
5. Review the 3 B's. What does it look like for you to be intentional with affirmation moving forward? Identify three unique traits for each of your kids that you will work to affirm more.
6. What would quality time look like with each of your kids?
7. Why is affection an important part of expressing love? How do you need to improve in this area?

