



4 Essentials for Growing a Healthy Family

"It takes wisdom to have a good family, and it takes understanding to make it strong." Pr. 24:3 (NCV)

1. _____ your kids for _____

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with man." Luke 2:52

"You must teach these commandments to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning." Deut. 6:7 (LB)

"One generation makes known Your faithfulness to the next." Isaiah 38:19 (LB)

2. _____ your kids in _____

"Reverence for the Lord gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." Pr. 14:26 (LB)

Types of Storms:

How to make your family a shelter in the storms:

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"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Eccl. 4:9-10 (NIV)

"A home filled with strife and division destroys itself." Mk. 3:25 (NCV)

3. _____ with your kids for _____

"Your children are a gift from God." Ps. 127:3-5 (LB)

"Celebrate with your whole family..." Deut. 16:11 (NLT)

"People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live." Eccl. 11:8 (NCV)

4. _____ your kids to _____

"Fathers... bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord." Eph. 6:4

"Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding." Pr. 9:10 (LB)

"Everything else is worthless compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Phil. 3:8 (LB)

"Choose today whom you will serve... As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic! Write your answers on another piece of paper this week.

This week's memory verse:

"Reverence for the Lord gives a man deep strength; his children have a place of refuge and security." Pr. 14:26 (LB)

Monday

Look over the notes and verses from this past weekend. Which points particularly jumped out at you? Why?

Rate yourself on the points in the message from 1 to 10. (If you don't have children, think of the way you relate to children in your family or circle of friends.) Where do you rate highest?

Where would you rate lowest?

How did your parents raise you-- where were they the strongest? How does this influence your own strengths and weaknesses?

Ask the Lord today to help you understand the responsibility you have toward the children in your sphere of influence. Ask Him to help you be the kind of godly influence He wants you to be! Thank Him for His excellent Fatherhood!

Tuesday

Read Colossians 3:20,21. These instructions are in the context of Paul's teaching in verses 12-17. Paul is basically saying that one example of "clothing" ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience is the way we act in our family relationships. Which of these five characteristics do we particularly need right now in your relationship with your children?

With your spouse?

With your friends?

According to these verses, what do fathers need to be careful of?

What is one way you can improve the way you treat each member of your family?

Today ask the Lord to improve your family relationships. Ask Him to show you how you could do your part in changing things for the better.

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 6:1-4. What does it mean to "honor your father and mother"?

How does honoring your parents bring you blessing?

How can it be hard to honor parents?

What can you do to improve or strengthen your relationship with your parents?

Ask the Lord to show you how to improve your relationship with your parents today! Give them a call or a visit if you can.

Thursday

Reread Ephesians 6:1-4. What does God want fathers *not* to do?

What does God want fathers *to* do?

How can fathers "exasperate" (v. 4) their children?

How might *you* sometimes exasperate your children?

What do you think is meant by "training and admonition" (or in the King James version, "nurture and admonition") of the Lord?

Ask God to show you how you can improve your family relationships today. Take some time to have fun today with your own kids or family friends.

Friday

Read Mark 10:13-16. Do kids ever bug you? When?

Why do you think the disciples wanted to keep kids away?

Why did Jesus want them to meet Him? What quality about them did He commend?

What does this story tell you about the way Jesus feels about your children?

Ask God today to help you have the faith of a child!

Saturday

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of this week's verse. Pray for the ministry this weekend! Thanks!