



Bringing Out the Best in Your Family

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

How to Bring Out the Best in Your Family

1. Accept their _____

“God works through different people in different ways...” 1 Cor. 12:6

“Judge your own actions and don’t compare yourself with others.” Gal. 6:4

“... Love does not demand its own way...” 1 Cor. 13:5 (LB)

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Prov. 22:6 (NIV)

2. Affirm their _____

“You made my whole being; You formed me in my mother’s body. I praise you because You made me in an amazing and wonderful way” Ps. 139:13-14 (NCV)

HOW?

“A word of encouragement does wonders.” Pr. 12:25 (LB)

3. Trust them _____

“We are each responsible for our own conduct.” Gal. 6:5 (NLT)

4. Correct them _____

“If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don’t love him...” Pr. 13:24 (LB)

“Correct your children while there is hope; don’t let them destroy themselves.” Pr. 19:18

• Don’t correct _____

“Don’t keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline ... with suggestions and godly advice.” Eph. 6:4 (LB)

• Watch _____

“Don’t use harmful words... Use only helpful words, the kind that build up...”

Eph. 4:29 (GN)

5. Love them _____

“Be kind and loving to each other, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ.” Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

“If you love someone... you will always believe in him, and always expect the best of him...” 1 Cor. 13:7 (LB)

A Parent’s Prayer

“I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need Your help, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.”

Ps. 101:2 (LB)

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:

“Be kind and loving to each other, forgiving each other just as God forgave you in Christ.” Eph. 4:32 (NIV)

Monday

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

As we asked you last week, rate yourself on the points in the message from 1 to 10. 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 how to bring out the best in your friends and family.

Tuesday

The first point in the message was about accepting the uniqueness of others. Why is this important if you are trying to bring out the best in others?

Read 1 Cor. 12:12-31. In this passage, Paul is specifically talking about the various gifts in the church. Of course, the principle applies when you are raising children as well-- God gives different people different gifts. According to verses 28-29, who appoints members of the body to their unique positions? Why is this important?

Why do you think people often assume certain gifts are more important than others?

How can you honor and develop the unique gifts of your friends and family?

Today ask the Lord to help you encourage and develop the unique gifts of your friends and family.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 139. What does this Psalm have to say about the value of each person?

Do you believe these verses are true of you?

Which verse in this psalm is most difficult for you to believe is true about yourself?

How can you affirm the value of your friends and family?

Ask the Lord to show you how to best affirm the value of your friends and family today! Use this Psalm as a template for prayer and thank God for the same things David thanks Him for in these verses!

Thursday

Read Proverbs 13:24 and Proverbs 19:18. What do these verses have to say about discipline?

What is difficult for you about disciplining children?

Is there a person or family you know who you think is a good example of correcting without condemning?

Ask God to show you how you can train and correct your children without being overly harsh or condemning. Think of how God corrects and disciplines us-- as a loving Father who is merciful and gracious!

Friday

One of the points of the message was to love unconditionally. Read 1 Cor. 13. According to these verses, how can a person demonstrate love?

Why do you think Paul wrote to the Corinthians about love?

Which of these descriptions of love is most difficult for you to practice with your family?

Ask God today to help you have this kind of love for others. Be specific about the people you need to love.

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!