

Friday

Read Proverbs 127:3-5. Look at the list in your notes detailing ways to “instruct” children. What area is hardest for you? What is the most difficult?

Today, look ask God for teachable moments so that you can build into the lives of children around you.

Saturday

Please pray for this weekend's services — and invite a friend! Thanks!

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Bea Tara – testing, diabetes control

Buck Harris – failing health, on “comfort care”

Elaine Hedges – heart catheterization

Harold Lindsey – surgery, tree limb fell on him

Doug Mitchell – knee surgery

Rod Seigle – triple bypass surgery

Ruth Seidel – cataract surgery

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries:

Kelly Armstrong, Beverly Bivins, Michael Zeh, Leslie Douglas

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update online at www.tlc.org/profiles.**

TO CHILDREN:

YOUR PARENTS

“Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **Honor** your father and mother . . .” *Ephesians 6:1*

1. Why “honor” and “obey” parents?

“...this is the first commandment with a promise: ‘that it may go **well** with you and that you may **enjoy long life** on the earth.’” *Ephesians 6:2b*

2. How can I honor my parents *this week*?

- Write a note of appreciation
- Call them up
- Send a little gift
- Publicly praise them
- Invite them over... or out!

TO PARENTS:

YOUR CHILDREN

“Fathers, do not **exasperate** your children, but bring them up in the **nurture** and **instruction** of the Lord.” *Ephesians 6:4*

1. What “exasperates” kids?

“**EXASPERATE**”: To irritate, to frustrate, to cause to smolder, to goad into a state of _____

Three factors contributing to exasperation:

- Perceived _____
- Critical _____

“Careless words stab like a sword . . .” *Proverbs 12:18 (NCV)*

- Uncontrolled _____

“A fool gives full vent to his anger; but a wise man keeps himself under control.” *Proverbs 29:11*

2. How do I “nurture” my kids?

- Be _____!
- Be _____
- Be _____

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

HOW TO BE A GOOD LISTENER

- Face your child squarely
- Be on their eye level
- Maintain eye contact
- Stay relaxed as you listen
- Give nonverbal feedback
- Restate what they say
- The goal is understanding

3. How do I “instruct” my kids?

- Look for _____

“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**.” *Deuteronomy 6:7*
(Some of the most teachable moments will be your most embarrassing moments!)

- _____ but don’t _____

“**Correct** your children while there is still hope; do not let them destroy themselves.”
 Proverbs 19:18 (NCV)

Jesus said: “Neither do I **condemn** you. Go and leave your life of sin.” *John 8:11*

The Difference Between Punishment and Discipline

	Punishment	Discipline
Purpose:	Inflict Penalty	Promote Growth
Focus:	Past	Future
Motivation:	Anger	Love
Result:	Fear, Guilt, Anger	Security and Growth

- _____ them!

“Behold, children are a gift from the Lord. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of one’s youth...” *Psalms 127:3-5*

Jesus said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” *(In 3 gospels: Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, Luke 18:16)*

The bottom line:

I must love my kids _____

Monday

Look back over your notes and read the passage: Ephesians 6:1-4. What impressed you about this passage? What points leapt out at you as points to apply right away?

Look at the parallel passage in Colossians 3:20-21. What additional insight does this give you into Paul’s intent?

What is the most difficult thing about parenting (or relating to children, if you are not a parent) to you?

Ask God to help you be more honoring to your parents or parental figures in your life, and to better train and encourage the children in your sphere of influence. Ask for God’s help in your area of struggle.

Tuesday

Read Proverbs 29:11 and Proverbs 12:18. Look at the list of factors in the notes that can exasperate children. Which tend to be trouble spots for you as you relate to kids in your life? Which, if any, did you experience from your own parents? Do you find you tend to reflect your parents’ style, or do you react by going the other direction?

Ask God to help you become a positive, encouraging force to the children in your life!

Wednesday

Today, look at the message bullet points listing ways to honor your parents. If your folks are alive, choose one or more (or make up your own) and honor them today! If your parents are no longer with you, apply this principal to parental figures in your life.

Thank God for your parents in specific ways.

Thursday

Read Proverbs 12:25 and Ephesians 4:29. Today, look at the list in your notes detailing ways to nurture your children (or your grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or other children close to you). Write down an action step here that you will practice today:

Ask God to help you remember to listen attentively to children — just as God listens to you in prayer!

over  



Memory Verse

“Behold, children are a gift from the Lord. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of one’s youth.”

Psalms 127:3-4