



PART 2

How to Build a Castle

JANUARY 5 & 6, 2013 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Like any construction project, building up your family spiritually requires five essential elements:

1. VISION: Share the big-picture _____

“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. *Joshua 24:15b*”

2. SUPERVISION: Give the gift of your _____

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

Teach these things to your children, talking about them **when you sit at home** and **when you walk** along the road, **when you lie down** and **when you get up**. *Deuteronomy 11:19*

3. DIRECTION: Teach God’s _____

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. *Proverbs 22:6*

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows**. *Galatians 6:7*

Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. *1 Corinthians 15:3*

4. MOTIVATION: Spread a _____

Therefore **encourage** one another and **build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Fathers, **do not embitter** your children, or they will become **discouraged**. *Colossians 3:21*

Ask yourself: _____ ?

Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple. *Job 5:2*

So Isaac called for Jacob and **blessed** him. . . . *Genesis 28:1*

Be **joyful** in hope, **patient** in affliction, **faithful** in prayer. *Romans 12:12*



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5. FOUNDATION: Build the whole enterprise on _____

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. *Colossians 3:1*

Love _____

the way _____ !

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Deuteronomy 11:17–19. In these verses, the Israelites are told to communicate their mission to their children. How are they told to do this?

How is it possible to do this?

How does a sense of godly purpose help a child navigate the storms of life?

Do you have a sense of your own purpose? How would you state your purpose?

How would you tell a child about their purpose?

Thank God that He made you for a purpose! Ask Him for the ability to communicate to others that they have a purpose too!

Tuesday

Read Ephesians 6:1–4. As Rene mentioned last weekend, the top cause of frustration in children is perceived inaccessibility of parents. How accessible are you to the children in your life?

How can you help children perceive you as more accessible? Have you communicated to them recently your love for them?

Take some time today to be an encouragement to a child.

Thank the Lord for His nurture of you. Ask Him for wisdom to nurture the children around you.

Wednesday

Read Galatians 6:7–9. What is the point of these verses? Why is it essential to communicate this truth to children?

What are some ways parents can teach the idea of “cause-and-effect” behavior?

How does this change as children grow older?

Ask God to help you sow what you would like to reap later in life — and to teach the same principle to others! Thank Him for His mercy and love!

Thursday

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11–18 and Ephesians 4:29. These are just two of many Bible passages about building others up. How can words “build up” others?

Today look for at least five opportunities to use your words to build others up. Be specific as you encourage them.

Thank God for the way His words in the Bible build us up! Ask Him to help you have a positive impact on those you meet today.

Friday

Read Luke 15:11–32. Jesus told this parable to show the kind of Father that God is to us. What principles about parenting come through?

Why is it difficult to stay positive through the parenting years?

Is your attitude toward your children a “healing” attitude or a destructive attitude?

Thank God for His parenting example — especially for the fact that, although every one of His children is a rebel, He remains gracious and loving!

Saturday

Look back over the notes from last weekend. What points seemed most relevant to your life? How can you apply them?

Brush up on the memory verse — and please pray for the services this weekend! Thanks!



Memory Verse

As for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD.
Joshua 24:15b