

FAMILY - 2
The Next Generation/January 17, 2010/Mike Berry

1. CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD, AND PARENTING IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT JOB.

“...³ Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵ How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...”
Psalm 127:3-5

2. THE BIBLE SAYS OUR MAIN JOB IN PARENTING IS TO TRAIN AND TEACH OUR KIDS.

“⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”
Deuteronomy 4:9

“¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ¹⁹ Teach them 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 11:18-19

3. TRAIN THEM TO LOVE GOD AND FOLLOW HIS WAYS.

“⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”
Deuteronomy 6:5-9

“⁹ However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--
1 Corinthians 2:9

Some of the areas we need to train our kids:

Identity

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10

Purpose

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Sexuality

“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”
1 Corinthians 6:18

Drugs and Alcohol

“² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2

Hard Work

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,” Colossians 3:23

People Skills and Communication

“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.”

Ephesians 6:1

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.”

Ephesians 4:15

Forgiveness

“²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Matthew 18:21-22

Marriage

“Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers....”

2 Corinthians 6:14

4. TRAIN THEM TO LEAVE.

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

“²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

5. ALL ADULTS ARE CALLED TO BE TRAINERS AND SPIRITUAL SPOTTERS.

“² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

“ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Hebrews 12:1-3

“¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. ¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:14-18

Action Step:

If you have children in the house, how are you doing at training them? Pray and ask God for His help.

If you are an empty nester, how can you still help train and spot your children?

If you don’t have children, how can you be a spotter for the next generation?