

## THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB ON EARTH

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

HOW DO WE DO THIS? HOW CAN WE BE MORE INTENTIONAL IN OUR PARENTING?

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ CONSTANTLY

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually,

One of the most powerful words in your parenting tool box is the word prayer.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

"Prayer is truly the greatest work I can do on behalf of my children."—Fern Nichols

### II. SOW THE \_\_\_\_\_ IN THEIR HEART & MIND

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> 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.

Psalms 23:1-4 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup> I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

### III. \_\_\_\_\_ CONSISTENTLY

Hebrews 12:5-6 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."<sup>[a]</sup>

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your children, and they will give you peace;  
they will bring you the delights you desire.

### IV. LIVE OUT AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well

Joshua 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

V. PROVIDE A CHRISTIAN \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:24, 25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

VI. COMMUNICATE \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Revolutionary Parenting by George Barna

Praying Circles Around Your Children by Mark Batterson

The Best Advice I Ever Got On Parenting by Jim Daly

Building Family Ties With Faith, Love and Laughter by Dave Stone

Raising Your Kids to Love The Lord by Dave Stone

## PARENTING ADVICE: IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

1. Pray for and WITH your children consistently. Teach them to pray in front of others.
2. Share the gospel with them at a young age, and repeatedly. But let them make the decision when they are old enough.
3. Read them Bible stories regularly. Make Bible story videos available to them. Encourage Bible memory work.
4. Discipline appropriately (not overly harsh)
5. Involve them in church consistently/Be very positive about church.
6. Teach them tithing. Show them how God is providing for the family.
7. Apologize when you mess up.
8. Don't neglect your marriage. Let them see a loving, sometimes fighting couple
9. Write them a letter of encouragement on their physical or spiritual birthday and take the child out to breakfast and read it to them and affirm them.
10. Really listen to them.
11. Protect family meal time.
12. Enjoy them. Play games with them.
13. Answers questions about the faith. Act like questions are a good thing.
14. Establish simple family traditions (Friday night movie night/ice cream).
15. What is each child's love language? Learn to speak it.
16. A united front. Don't undercut each other.
17. Give them time with their grandparents (and other positive adults, especially church people).
18. Be stable, stay in one place as much as possible.
19. Tell them you love them and are proud of them regularly (be specific).
20. Involve them in a sport if they are interested (but don't become overly busy).
21. Be somewhat open about your background (Your parents, your mistakes).
22. Marry someone as cool and wise as Dellie.
23. Limit video games.
24. Read regularly to them.
25. Laugh as much as possible (We bought Christian Comedy DVD whenever we could)
26. Hug them often/ Touch.
27. Have them see you pray and read the Bible.
28. Detox them from negatives of public school. Process with them about evolution, etc. But affirm the positives, overall our kids had wonderful teachers.
29. Be open, for the most part no subject is off limits to talk about.
30. Be aware of your kid's friends parents. What are they being exposed to at the other house? No overnights or make it very rare.
31. Defend the other parent. (Boys scaring Dellie)
32. Build a relationship with your child's school. Be a parent they want to see coming so that when there is a problem you have made deposits in that relationship bank.
33. Master quantum physics, this will make parenting look easier. And no I have not mastered quantum physics, I'm not even sure I spelled it correctly.

34. Honor other authority figures in your child's life (youth sponsors, teachers, coaches, policemen)
35. Always, always convey and say to them that you love them no matter what.
36. Encourage them to try new things (drama, musical instruments, etc).
37. Don't pick unnecessary battles, but if you pick a battle you must win the battle.
38. Never ever underestimate the power of your example.
39. Monitor media input fairly strictly (movies, TV, music, etc.) I usually preview most movies.
40. Give them regular chores, so that they contribute to the household.
41. Talk about your expectation that they will go to college or a trade school or apprenticeship after high school.
42. Work hard at your job. They will learn their work ethic from you.
43. Teach them to watch media critically. Have them analyze the real message of all commercials.
44. Tell them life can be hard. Expect challenges. Try to combat a sense of entitlement if you see it growing in them.
45. Teach them to defend the underdog and look out for the odd kid at school.
46. Be friendly to their friends. Pray for them specifically.
47. Make some vacation memories.
48. Teach them to say thank you. And to write hand written thank you notes.
49. Ask questions when you're driving the kids somewhere, especially the boys.
50. Savor your time with them. It goes way too fast.