



Today we are going to talk about what we can do to help our children leave home with lifetime Biblical convictions.

Some of the experiences from my past will help you understand what we need to be doing.

- Ministry Background
- College Freshmen

We may have a goal to raise a godly generation, but where do we start and how? That is what we are going to focus on in this workshop.

Preparing Your Children to Leave Home with Lifetime Biblical Convictions

- **Introduction**
- **Parental Paradigm**
- **Expectations for Teens**
- **Parental Responsibilities - LIPP Service**
 - Life
 - Instruction
 - Protection & Prayer
- **Conclusion, Q & A**

Preparing Your Children to Leave Home with Lifetime Biblical Convictions

Your Parental Paradigm

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. “

That means two things:

1. At some point your children will leave home
2. We should be preparing them to be on their own

In the very beginning , the bible establishes our parental objective for our children.

It is stated in Genesis 2:24 which is before the fall, but it is also restated 3 times in the NT. (by Jesus in Mt 19:5, Mk 10:7 and Paul in Ephesians 5: 31). It says, “**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. “**

That means two things:

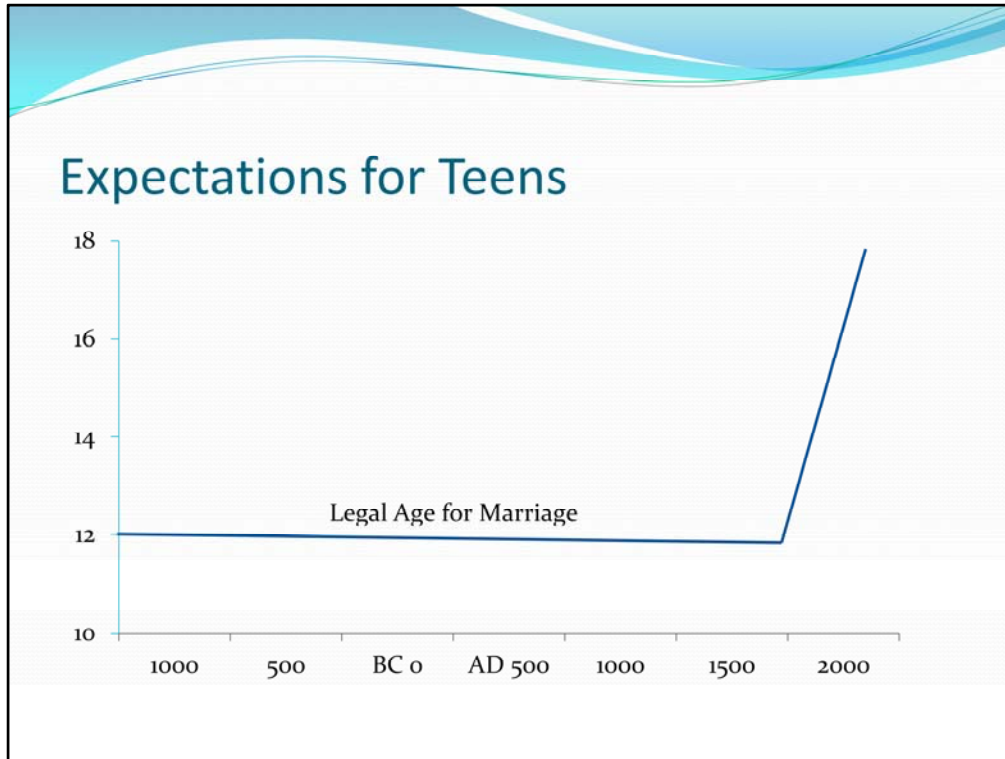
1. At some point in the future, your child will and should leave your home and start his or her own home.
2. That means that at if we have the right aim and are doing what we should be doing, then we should be preparing our children to leave home and be on their own.

This should be on the top of our minds when we think about our children. In God’s plan they will leave our home and to support God’s design for our children we must prepare them for that occasion. I know it is tough to think of our Preschoolers this way, but if we do, then when they are at an age where it is time to leave home, we will know they have the basics for facing the world. We may look at that time with sorrow about losing them but with confidence that they have been prepared for life on their own.

Important!

You will find your child rearing changes when you have a purpose for them. It is like when many of us learned to ride a bike or drive a car. We didn’t look at that car and say to ourselves, I want to learn how to operate that piece of machinery. Especially when you started finding out that it was scary at times and difficult to learn.

So our goal should be to train our children to be on their own? We are not just to manage them but to prepare them for independence.



Throughout history there has been no reference to adolescence at least until about the last century. It is not mentioned in the bible or in history for a reason. We have defined adolescence as the time between when the child reaches puberty and the time they are actually considered an adult. However for the last 3000 years, until about the last century, those two events coincided. Once a child reached the teenage years, they were also considered an adult.

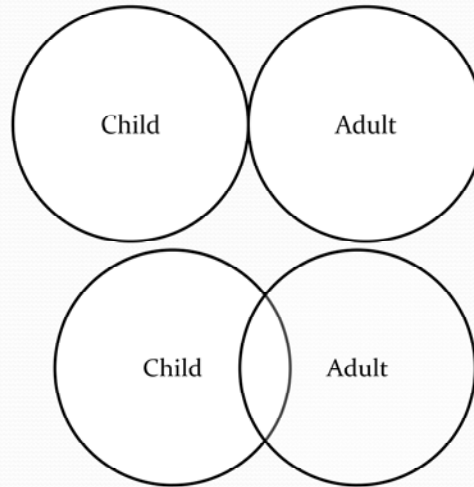
Two thousand years ago under Roman law, women could marry at twelve and men at fourteen. A thousand years ago under English law it was the same. Two hundred years ago under common law in the United States it was still the same—women could marry at twelve and men at fourteen. For 3000 years, the minimum legal age for marriage did not change. Of course, not everyone married at twelve or fourteen, just as everyone does not marry at eighteen today.

So, what's the point? For the first time in thousands of years, teenagers were redefined as "children." and were not allowed to make adult decisions.

Expectations for Teens

We have created
Adolescence or
That in-between
State where we
Treat Adults like a
Child.

We have moved child
Expectations into the
Adult person.



Expectations for Teens

What's the Point?

- We cannot change the laws, but
- We can change our expectations
- We can begin treating teenagers as much like adults as possible
- Example: Bar Mitzvah

So how do we deal with this perspective today? There are some restrictions on what the law and other people will let you do.

READ SLIDE

For example,

- The law will not allow them to work for wages, but you can see that they learn to work at home. Although they cannot legally earn much money, you can still see that they learn how to handle money wisely.
- The law will not allow them to marry, but you can help them learn how to get along in a family relationship.

Even if other people expect your teenagers to act irresponsibly, you can expect them to be responsible.

We can treat them more like adults if we have taught them the lessons I shared about the spiritual training of preschoolers about skills and freedom training.

This is still done successfully in certain societies. The Bar Mitzvah in the Jewish society is an example.

Expectations for Teens

Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah

- Takes place at the age of 13
- The boy becomes a man in the eyes of the synagogue
- There are privileges of all sorts that become available
- It opens up opportunities for the young man to have experiences that can foster building a clearer image of himself in an adult, productive capacity
- This stimulates the belief in what the young man can become and the place he can assume in the temple and in Jewish society

For example, in Jewish Culture, the Bar Mitzvah ceremony takes place at the age of 13 years of age.

>>The boy becomes a man in the eyes of the synagogue. A 'man of duty' as implied in the name of the ceremony, a man capable of upholding law and who is now responsible for themselves. Gone are the care free days of childhood. The young man is now seen as an adult in the eyes of Jewish Law.

>>There are privileges of all sorts that become available to the one who has had 'Bar Mitzvah'. One of these privileges is that they are now able to get up in front of everyone at temple and read from the Torah in services. It is acknowledged by the faith that full spiritual and intellectual maturity does require time, **but**

>>this ceremony opens up opportunities for the young man to have experiences that can foster building a clearer image of the self in an adult, productive capacity.

>>This stimulates the belief in what the young man can become and the place he can assume in the temple and in the Jewish society.

Expectations for Teens

Bar Mitzvah,

- It is these **beliefs** and **expectations** within himself and of those around him, including family, friends and church that help foster and drive the maturing of the young man.

As a symbolic measure of the change from child to adult, the Bar Mitzvah represents that the young man has a greater understanding of what is expected of them, and greater understanding of themselves. It is in large part the **expectations** that are stimulated within the young man who is going through this initiation that drive the belief in taking his next step in growth. It is also the **belief and expectation** of those around him in his family, friends, and church that help drive this growing belief.

Parental Responsibility

What is our responsibility?

- Adjust your expectations
- Expect adult behavior at 12 to 13 years
- Treat our children more like adults at that age
- Adjust our teaching methods to accommodate adults
- Target our instruction to prepare for independence

Adjust your expectations for teens and those approaching teens.

Expect Adult behavior at 12 to 13 years – Kind, considerate, humble, respect others and respect property

Treat them like adults – Freedom should be accompanied by self discipline. Responsibilities should be handled on their own initiative, i.e. without being told. They should own their responsibilities as only right for them to contribute to the family

Adjust your teaching methods – Asking what their thinking is for their choices. Involving them in the decision making process. Your instruction takes the form of helping them think through their choices and decisions.

Allowing them to fail and make mistakes. No Fatal Mistakes !!!! Be wise! And talking through what happened and maybe what would be better next time approaching them from a helping standpoint, not a dictator. Outwardly recognizing their good decisions and actions. If they stay up too late, they have to pay the price the next day. But we don't lower our performance expectations. We focus on holding them responsible for results rather than managing their time and activities.

Target your instructions for independence – They should be learning those areas that help them function successfully in the world. Spiritually, they should be prepared for the worlds values and know how to deal with those values and how to respond, both intellectually and with a proper attitude.

Transistion:

So what is our part for passing on spiritual convictions?

Preparing Your Children to Leave Home with Lifetime Biblical Convictions

- Introduction
- Parental Paradigm
- Expectations for Teens
- Parental Responsibilities - LIP Service
 - **Life**
 - Instruction
 - Protection & Prayer
- Conclusion, Q & A

So how do we teach the spiritual principles and values?

I have outlined some of our responsibilities in an acronym I call LIPP Service and it starts in Deut 6: 4-7

NEXT SLIDE

Parental Responsibility

- **Basic Principles of Spiritual Training – Deut 6:4-7**

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

The L for Life, starts with the first two verses. These tell us the basic underlying spiritual principle that we must pass on to our children. The Lord must be the priority of our life.

Read the first two verses.

According to this verse, God's first requirement is that He is first?

Its simple, all means all ! And that is all all means !

So how do we teach this to our children?

Parental Responsibility

- **Life: Your Life Must Reflect Proper Priorities**

Language Example:

The Child Development Institute indicates the following vocabulary development in children:

- 18 months 5-20 words
- 24 months 150-300 words
- 36 months 900-1000 words

Think about how you taught your child vocabulary?

Talk about the slide

So the first requirement is to set the proper example.

What is the example in Deut 6: 4 & 5?

Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is one, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words that I command you today shall be in your heart!

How do we pass that on to our children?

Do your children ever catch you reading your Bible, just you and the Lord? Or praying?

As real as my hands and feet?

Parental Responsibility

Life: Your Life Must Reflect Proper Example

- Dads Set the Family Focus, what is it?
- Your Ministry
- Your Witness to your family

Dads set the family focus. Sports, fishing, computers... It is ok to enjoy these areas, they also serve to train our children to live in the world, however, our children need to see that although you enjoy these areas, your life's focus is the Lord.

They need to understand that these things come a distant second to your focus on the Lord and His service.

Ministry - One of the key areas to show your commitment to Christ is to be involved in some kind of ministry. **Lk 9:23, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily.** & **James 2, Faith without works is dead.**

Ministry helps build your ministry skills but it also holds you accountable. Often, ministry allows you to include your children as well. What does your ministry commitment communicate to your children about your commitment to the Lord?

If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would you be convicted? Would your children convict you?

Parental Responsibility

Instruction:

Basic Principles of Spiritual Training – Deut 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Next area is your **Instruction**

READ : And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Notice it says heart, not head? Know why?

It is what is in your heart that changes your life!

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Aim for the Heart

We must:

- Spend time in the Scriptures ourselves
- Help them spend time in the Scriptures
- Help them learn how to feed themselves
- Help them go beyond Borrowed Spirituality

So how do we aim for the heart?

Discuss the slide

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Aim for the Heart

- Motivated moments within real life circumstances
- Whet their appetite – Stretch them
- Help them prepare for the future
- Talk of them... sit, walk, lie down, rise up.

It says we are to aim for the heart. How do we do that?

... teach them diligently Deut. 6:7 - Make it relative to their life.

Look for motivated moments within real life circumstances - Remember when they were really young and liked to do certain chores they avoid now? Those areas still exist both in life skills and spiritual training. Think.

Whet their appetite. How? Stretch them. Get ahead of them in real life training. Get involved in their struggles and trials and encourage and exhort them. Look at Paul's letters and how he dealt with the existing challenges in the churches.

Talk about the challenges they will have in the future and discuss how the scriptures teaches us to respond.

Talk of them ... sit, walk, lie down, rise up. This is a combination of identifying the motivated moments, stretching them and talking through the issues and challenges as you join them in their struggles. Talk about these challenges as fellow travelers in a challenging world, not always having all the answers, but helping them discover the answers themselves.

Here are some examples:

NEXT SLIDE

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Motivated Moments or Events

- Crossing the street
- Driving Lessons
- Handling money
- Work
- How do I treat my brother
- How do I respond when wronged
- How do I deal with unbelievers
- How do I treat the opposite sex
- How do I act when dating or courting
- How do I select a mate

- Crossing the street,
- Driving lessons - Being observant, being considerate, patient, forgiving.
- Handling money - Help them get a bank account and help them understand how the Lord wants us to use our money and how it reflects what is in our heart. Mt 6:19
- Work - 2 Thes 3:10 He that does not work, does not eat; Trip to ToysRus. Start to give them opportunities to earn money for their toys.
- How do I treat my brother? Eph 4:32
- What do I do when wronged? Eph 4:32
- How should I serve in my family?
- How should I serve in the church?
- How do I deal with unbelievers?
- How do I treat the opposite sex?
- How should I act when on a date or courting?
- How do I select a mate?

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Aim for the Heart

- Encourage progressively earned freedoms
- Give them responsibilities
- Encourage them to take on a ministry and support them in it.
- Don't Dump the Truck
- The Bible is not a Club

Encourage progressively earned freedoms & responsibility: Shift control to your child before you lose it to them. Don't block their maturing or give them complete freedom before they are responsible enough to handle it. If you abuse a freedom... Talk with them about the biblical values that tell us how to make choices, treat people and live life. That means you have to know them and live them.

Give them responsibilities around the home or in a business if you have one. Help them learn how to handle responsibility and talk about what they are learning. Make sure they have responsibilities around the house. They should expect to be a contributing member of the household.

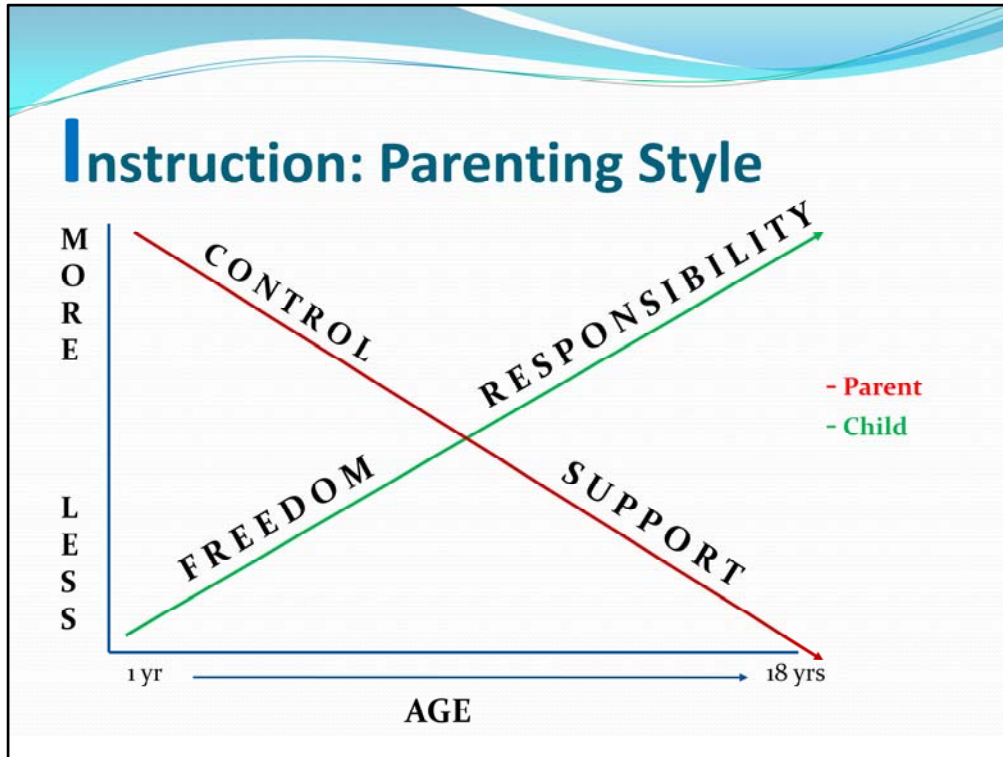
Encourage them to take on a ministry and support them in the process. Let them explore their own ideas for ministry. Help them think through how to do it, not why they can't do it.

Don't Dump the Truck - Never forget that neither you nor your children can do everything at once. We are all a work in progress. Be patient and think about what you want to accomplish but be sensitive to those opportunities to encourage proper response to the Lord and others. But don't exasperate your children by putting an unrealistic burden on them.

Ping pong balls.

Never use the Bible as a club to get what you want. It is to teach us to know and love the Lord and the people he died for. 2 Tim 3:16&17

Here is an illustration of what I am talking about.



Encourage progressively earned freedoms & responsibility: As they are ready give them freedom to make their own choices, but teach them to talk through their decisions by asking what their thinking is.

Shift control to your child before you lose it to them. Don't block their maturing or give them complete freedom before they are responsible enough to handle it.

The key is to maintain the right balance of freedom and control. But your aim is to teach them how to use their freedom while they are still in your home. We want them to become self reliant.

Adjust your parenting style to accommodate spiritual growth.

Progressively give your control and teach them to be self sufficient.

Next Slide

Skills:

Responsibility
 Accountability
 Sensitivity to others needs

Freedom:

- Wisdom – Making good choices
- Honesty
- Self Control
- Accountability

Instruction – Parenting Styles	
Approximate Ages	Parenting Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant • Preschooler • Preschooler/Grade School • Grade School/Teen • Teen • Independent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Control & Provider • Dictator/Teacher/Provider • Guide/Teacher-Mentor/Provider • Counselor/Guide/Provider • Fellow Traveler/Counselor • Release (On their own)
<p>Romans 7: 14 – 24 I see a law in my members...</p>	<p>Gal 3: 24 The law is our tutor to bring us to Christ</p>

Discuss these levels.

Our style of parenting needs to fit where the child is and where we want them to go. It is not an all control or no control. Both our parenting and our teaching styles should change based on maturity.

Preschooler:

For instance, at the preschool age, we have to dictate what they do, but we can start teaching them to do things on their own and to make wise decisions. Our teaching initially takes the form of providing instruction. But once they have been instructed, we need to have them stop and think about what they are doing or the choices they are making and evaluate how it aligns with our instructions. Ask them why they are making the choices they are making.

Our objective should be to teach our children to stop and think about what they are doing. They need to get off of automatically doing whatever they feel like doing and consider what should be done. Being considerate of others, doing what they are supposed to do, doing what is best.

This will not come naturally. You are going to have to stop them in their tracks from acting instinctively to consider the direction and motivation for their actions.

Paul describes this in Romans 7: The children need to learn to differentiate how their natural tendencies differ from God's standards. Romans 7: excerpts

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand.

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Practical Examples:

Conflict – Sit on the sofa together until they can work it out and come tell us what happened and why. Go to the room until they can tell us what happened and what they did wrong and what they should have done.

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Matt 7:13-14 - Straight and Narrow

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits.

Circle of choices in life, will you stay on course?

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Ps 1:1, Watch your walk

Blessed is the man

- Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
- Nor stands in the path of sinners,
- Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

We all are constantly exposed to the world's values and beliefs; we cannot go to the grocery store, watch TV or commercials, everywhere we go we are constantly being exposed to the world's values and propaganda.

The question is how we deal with it? Will we choose the straight and narrow? Our kids will know what we choose. It will come out in our behavior to them and the world.

Another question:

Are we so exposed to the world and it's thinking that we may not recognize when we have strayed from the truth?

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Matt 7:13-14 - Straight and Narrow

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At the End –

Comment - Let’s look at some examples to see if we can recognize the difference when we stray from the straight and narrow.

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Beware of Wolves

- 4 Basic Views
- List – What Can a Preschool Child Learn
- Counterfeit Detection

Lets start with some basic views.

4 Basic Views	
Biblical Presuppositions	Man's Presuppositions
• Scripture	• Scripture
• God	• God
• Fleshly Man	• Fleshly Man
• Eternity	• Eternity

Lets talk about the different perspectives between the world and the biblical perspective. We are looking to establishing a benchmark.

If we are going to protect our children from the world's values, we must be acutely aware of the differences and how they play out.

Scripture:

- Inspired by God
- True from beginning to end
- Tells us about God & Jesus Christ
- Profitable for spiritual training
- Tells us how to live
- It is the primary way God speaks to us today

God:

- Father, Son & Holy Spirit
- Creator
- Master of the Universe
- Character - Holy, Loving, Merciful, Gracious, Hates Sin
- Knows everything we do and think
- Savior – Jesus Died for our Sins
- Judge

Fleshly Man:

- Created by God
- Separated from God by Sin
- Condemned because of Sin
- Sinners by nature
- We have an eternal spirit or soul

Eternity:

- There is an eternity
- There is a Heaven
- There is a Hell
- God determined what happens in our eternity

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Beware of Wolves

- 4 Basic Views
- List – What Can a Preschool Child Learn
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Protection: Beware of Wolves

Educational Beliefs List – What is missing?

- About God
- About Jesus
- About the Bible
- About the Church
- About his Home
- About Pleasing God
- About Reaching Others with the Gospel?

Take a look at the list on page ____ of your notes and tell me whether this is what you want your children to know and believe in each of these areas. Especially think about the gospel and whether there is anything important left out about the gospel.

This is when we are establishing the basic understanding of who God is and who we are in relation to the Lord. So it is critical that we provide the right information and that we adequately cover the basic concepts.

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Beware of Wolves

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Parental Responsibility

Protection: Matt 7:13-14 – Beware of Wolves

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¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits.

Notice that it doesn’t say, be aware (passive), but beware (active)!

Protection: Beware of Wolves

How do we Detect Counterfeits

- Know the Scriptures
- Chewing Gum on the Telephone Pole
- Creation vs Evolution and Its Impact
- Know about the End Times
- Types of Arguments and Fallacies
- Encourage involvement with other godly men, women or groups

Know your Bible

Counterfeit Detection & Ps 1: 2&3

40 to 50 new religions are started every year. Any one of them could cause our children to lose their way. Be grounded in the Scriptures.

Chewing Gum on the Telephone Pole

Creation vs Evolution and its impact

In Six Days edited by John F Ashton PhD

Documentary - Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed – Ben Stein

ICRs - Morris or Answers In Genesis - Ken Ham's

End Times

For many will come in my name ... Matt 25:5, Mk 13:6, Lk 21:8 – **Scariest verse in the Bible?**

Commentary on Revelation and Daniel Prophecies, Because the Time is Near by MacArthur.

Types of Arguments, Fallacies of Evasion, Procedural Fallacies (Google "Types of Arguments"), Demagoguery

Let them be or encourage them to be involved with other godly men or women or groups that will pass on proper values and teaching

Protection: Beware of Wolves

Psalms 1:2, The Best Protection is to Know Scriptures

Blessed *is* the man

- Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
- Nor stands in the path of sinners,
- Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight *is* in

- the law of the LORD, And
- in His law he meditates day and night.

³ He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

And we definitely want our children to prosper spiritually!

⁴ The ungodly *are* not so,
But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.



Parental Responsibility

Prayer

- **Jesus prayed for us and His Disciples, John 17:15**
- **Told to put our care on Him in prayer, Phil 4:6**
- **The Lord Answers Prayer – Ps 127: 1&2**

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- **Parental Paradigm**
- **Expectations for Teens**
- **Our Responsibilities - LIPP Service**
 - Life
 - Instruction
 - Protection
 - Prayer
- **Conclusion, Q & A**
- **Review - Cartoons**

Pray

THE END



Parental Responsibility

Philippians 3:13 & 14

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.