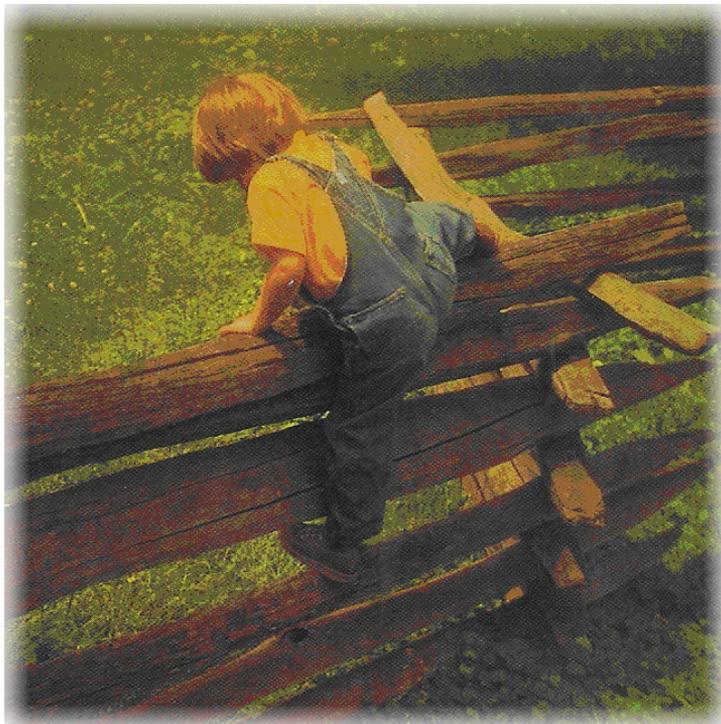


To Love Their Children

Meeting Spiritual Needs of their Children

by Jana Brackbill



And this I pray, that your **love may abound** still more and more in **real knowledge and all discernment**, so that you may **approve the things that are excellent**, in order to be **sincere and blameless** until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which {comes} through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

~Philippians 1:9-11

Let us be committed to the labors and joys of having faith in God's Word, as expressed by our prayers that will bring blessings from the throne of grace, so that many will rejoice because we continually call upon the throne of our Father in heaven. Let us seek to honor the Lord and His Word by training children who will serve the God of their salvation.

Consider three mothers from the Scriptures:

She entrusted her child to a wise and sovereign God. (Exodus 2)

She prayed for a child. (7 Samuel 1)

She considered herself a bondservant and asked that it would be done to her according to God's word. She treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. (Luke 1:38; Luke 2:19)

7. To love their children with an abounding love

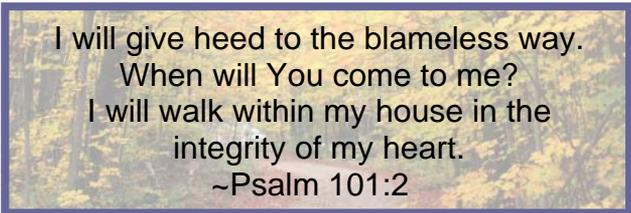
Meeting their spiritual need of experiencing true abounding love in the home. They need to experience compassion which is really love and understanding.

Through relationships in the home

- Turning their hearts to their father (Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:17)
- Maintaining a *relationship* with them (Ephesians 6:1-4)
- Maintaining discipline in the biblical way (Hebrews 12:11; I Timothy 3:4)
- Enjoying your children (Zephaniah 3:17)
- Giving credit and praise to them *when it is due* (Proverbs 3:27)
- Demonstrating to them that they are a vital part of your family (Psalm 127:3)

Through the environment of the home

- Providing a *controlled, consistent and respectful* setting (I Corinthians 14:40)
- Meeting their needs (I Timothy 6:8)
- Maintaining a God-fearing atmosphere (Joshua 24:15)



I will give heed to the blameless way.
When will You come to me?
I will walk within my house in the
integrity of my heart.
~Psalm 101:2

Through parental testimony in the home

- Praying to God on their behalf (I Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 1:3)
- Demonstrating *sacrificial love* to them (1 John 3:16)
- Responding to situations (Psalm 140:13; I Corinthians 10:13)
- *Growing with them* in the love of Christ and the power of His Word (II Peter 3:18)

FF. To love their children by giving them real knowledge and helping them develop discernment

Meeting their spiritual need of knowing truth and being able to detect things that are not true.

Through giving them the Bible

- Guiding them to the Bible as the *only source* of truth that is changeless and perfect
- Giving them the truth about God and His dealings with them

Through different ways of presenting the truth

- *Memorizing* verses and passages (Psalm 119:11)
- *Singing* hymns and choruses (Psalm 33:1)
- *Reading* the Bible (I Timothy 4:13)
- Appreciating nature and reflecting upon the Creator (1 John 1:3; Genesis 1:1)
- Teaching biblical truths through object lessons (Mark 12:13-17)
- *Teaching and reviewing* catechism questions

FFF. To love their children by helping them approve excellent things

Meeting their spiritual need of living their lives for excellent things

**God does not waste time or tears
He is always ready to forgive
We often waste time, resulting in tears
Calling upon Him for mercy we live.**

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are {just} a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

~James 4:14

So teach us to number our days,
that we may present to You
a heart of wisdom.

~Psalm 90:12

In the home

- Investing their time in *prayer* and *personal devotions* (Psalm 119:104-105)
- Investing their time in family relationships by developing the fruit of the Spirit
- Investing their time in *reading Christian biographies, journals, and missionary letters* (Hebrews 11: God's heroes/heroines of all ages)
- Investing their time in preparation to serve (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Outside the home

- Consistently attending regular *church services* (Hebrews 10:25)
- Consistently attending church *fellowships* and *outings*
- Consistently attending age-related opportunities sponsored by the church

Children's Church (Sunday evening)

Children's Choirs (Wednesday evening during prayer)

Sunday School

AWANA/FrontLine (Saturday morning 9:30-11:30)

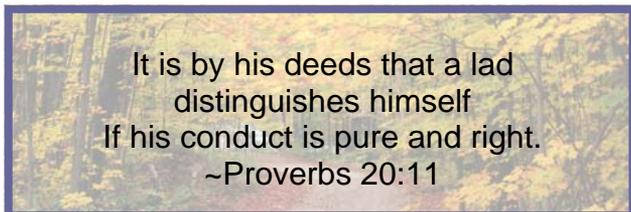
Ladies Missionary Prayer Group (Friday evening monthly)

The Men's Breakfast (Saturday morning monthly)

Neighborhood Bible School (July)

FV. To love their children by encouraging them to be sincere and blameless

Meeting their spiritual needs of having a testimony of honesty and virtue

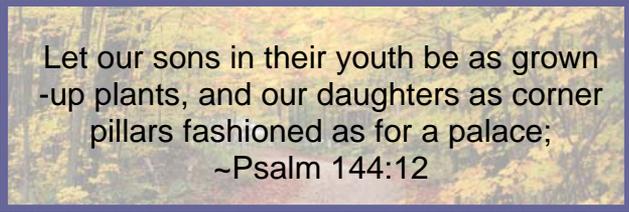


In relationship to others

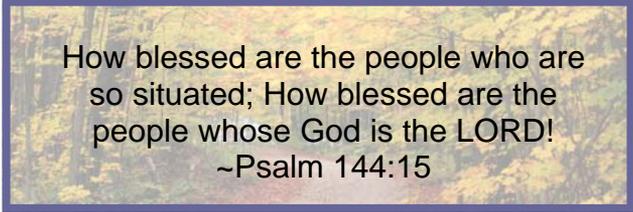
- Empathizing with others (Romans 12:15)
- Respecting and taking *responsibility* for *siblings*
- Respecting and obeying *parents* (Colossians 3:20)
- *Helping and serving* others (Galatians 5:13)
- Forgiving others (Ephesians 4:32)
- Witnessing to others (Proverbs 11:30)

In their own spiritual growth

- Keeping right *attitudes* (Proverbs 4:23)
- Being transparent and *harmonious* with the Word of God (II Corinthians 3:18)
- Displaying *contentment* (Proverbs 30:8-9) (Hebrews 13:5)
- Thinking honestly about themselves (Jeremiah 17:9)
- Confessing sins (Psalm 51:4) (I John 1:9)
- Taking *responsibility* for wrongs done (Numbers 5:7)
- Realizing that *God will strengthen* them through difficult situations (Job 23:10) (Genesis 50:20) (Romans 12:21)
- *Dedicating* oneself to God (Romans 12:1)
- Keeping a proper view of humility (I Peter 5:5)



Let our sons in their youth be as grown
-up plants, and our daughters as corner
pillars fashioned as for a palace;
~Psalm 144:12



How blessed are the people who are
so situated; How blessed are the
people whose God is the LORD!
~Psalm 144:15

In relationship to the church and fellow believers

- Holding their *pastor(s)* in high regard (Hebrews 13:7, 17)
- Respecting *church leadership* (I Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- Respecting *the Lord's Day* (Exodus 20:8)
- Praying for fellow believers and having a gentle spirit toward them (James 5:16; Galatians 6:1)
- Seeking to help *those in need* (James 1:27; I John 3:17)
- Giving of *tithes and offerings* (II Corinthians 9:7)
- Serving at church as a family and alone (Joshua 24:15)

It is God's will that children come unto Him. The Lord takes delight in His plans for good and not evil in their lives. Resting in His promises by faith and prayerfully assuming our God-given opportunity in attending our children's spiritual needs, we place ourselves in a covenant with God. We then can anticipate the blessed results of **their lives being filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes through Jesus Christ, resulting in all glory and praise to God the Father.** Let us pray for each other as we endeavor to worship our LORD in this way.

Booklist

Parenting:

How To Raise Your Children for Christ.. ..Andrew Murray

Proverbs for Parenting: Topical Guide for Child Raising
..... Barbara Decker

Young Children:

Little Visits with God.....
..... Allan Hart Jahsmann and Martin P. Simon

More Little Visits with God
..... Allan Hart Jahsmann and Martin P. Simon

Give Us This Day (The Lord's Prayer)
..... Illustrated by Tasha Tudor

The Lord Is My Shepherd Illustrated by Tasha Tudor

Egermeier's Bible Story Book..... Elsie E. Egermeier

Bible for Little EyesKenneth Taylor

Young Readers:

Little Pilgrim's Progress.....Helen L. Taylor