

Raising Children in a Christian Home

- Children have feelings
- Give Time
- Love Unconditionally
- Praise
- Laugh more with children
- Defend boundaries (with reasons)
- Recognise the uniqueness of each child
- Set yourself free of what other people think
- Don't delegate the big issues
- Don't give up - hang in there
- Let go

- Faith is more easily caught than taught!
- Do you live what you preach?
- Are Christian values modelled in your home - and in the car?!!!
- Maintain boundaries and discipline
- Is there a lot of encouragement?
- Is there much fun?
- Do your children feel loved and respected?
- Apologise when you make mistakes

Do your children know (by your actions as well as your words) that you value them?

Do your children **feel** loved?

Love can be expressed in different ways!

You need to know how to treat each individual child, so that they **FEEL** loved and special.

5 Love Languages:

- *Words of Affirmation
- *Quality Time
- *Receiving Gifts
- *Acts of Service
- *Physical Touch

Prov 22⁶ Does **NOT** say:

train up a child to be a Christian and they will become one, and stay committed to The Lord for their whole

Give your children a sense of security

Do you plan to be with them for specific events? – School play, sports day, birthdays.

Do you leave space in your diary for regular family time

Are you more concerned for other people's children than for your own?

How much quality time do you spend with your child?

Henry Ward Beecher said this:

"It is not hard to make a child or a tree grow right if you train them when they are young, but to make them straighten out after you've allowed them to go wrong is not an easy

DISCUSSION 1.

Share your thoughts on the following questions & statements:

Do you share Bible times and prayer times with your children? }
Do you pray with them and for them? } **Share ways that you have found helpful**
Do they learn Biblical truths from you? }

As they get older, are they free to ask questions and state their beliefs?
Do you discuss with them respectfully?
You can help them to clarify their thinking.

Are you committed to your church?
Are you showing them that church is important?
Don't let them hear you complaining about everybody and everything about church!

You need Christian fellowship and good teaching from your church, but are your children's needs also being met in your church?

If possible, consider finding a church that is relevant for your children – find a good youth group.
This may mean that your teenage children go to a different church than the one you attend.

If you are in church leadership, there are always demands on your time.
Other people need you, but so do your children.
Do your children feel more important to you than other people in your church?
Where do your children fit into your priorities?
Is there a good balance? – or does work and church always take 1st place?
Do you make time with children – sometimes on a 1-1 basis?

DISCUSSION 2.

Share your thoughts on the following questions & statements:

Remember how you felt as a teenager.
Your child is now heading towards adulthood.
What can you do to make it as painless for him/her as possible?

Which rules need to be relaxed?
Do you discuss, and reach agreement?

Show them respect – and expect it in return!

They are changing.
Hormones are causing havoc!
How open is your communication with your teenager?
In what ways can you encourage good influential friendship groups?
Are their friends welcome in your home?
Would your children want their friends in your home?

DISCUSSION 3.

How would it make you feel if your children don't become Christians and reject your faith?
Would you feel a failure?
Would you feel responsible?
If your non-Christian adult son/daughter invites you to a family, or other event which would mean that you miss church on Sunday – would you go? Give reasons for your answer.