

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-2 Parenting, Step-Parenting, Grand-Parenting & Mentoring Essentials

LESSON 2: Positive Reinforcement. Building Relationships That Bond

3. Positive parents build relationships that bond.

? A Biblical picture of parenting like a mother

¹ Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

⁸ We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

? A Biblical picture of parenting like a father.

¹ Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

✍ Acknowledge Assets

✍ Affirm Effort

✍ Appreciate Improvement

✍ Applaud Progress

? The principle of Relationship



Axiom 1: The stronger your relationship with your child, the more likely he will embrace your values and beliefs.

Axiom 2: The weaker your relationship with your child, the less likely he will embrace your values and beliefs.

Axiom 3: Tension, stress and difficulties are normal.

? 8 Keys for Building Relationships that bond:

1. Unconditional love
2. Scheduled time
3. Focused attention
4. Eye contact
5. Ongoing communication
6. Meaningful touch
7. Have fun together
8. Pray together often

4. Positive parenting requires constant repair and ongoing maintenance.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Five Powerful Words: I'm Sorry. Please Forgive Me

Discussion Questions:

1. Make sure everyone in your group is wearing a BOLD NAMETAG so you can remember names and get to know each other.
2. Start your group by catching up on how life and parenting is going. Are there any prayers being answered?
3. What parts of “parenting like a mother and parenting like a father stand out to you personally? What would that look like for you?
4. Which of the “8 Keys to Building Relationships” come easiest for you? Why is that?
5. Which of the “8 Keys to Building Relationships” are more difficult for you? What can you do about that?
6. Are there repairs that you need to do in cleaning up the past with your children? What action steps would be best for you to do?
7. Use the Prayer Journal in the Appendix to record personal prayer requests.
8. END ON TIME. Close in prayer.