

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

LESSON 3: God Has A Dream. Building Your Child's Full Potential.

1. You must understand your child's two primary needs are for significance and security.

? Two questions kids are always asking:

1. Do you love me
2. Where are the boundaries?

? The perfect parent: God

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

2. You must recognize your child's primary responsibility is to learn obedience.

"Obedience is the channel through which God's blessings flow"

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)

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

² "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise--

³ "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Obedience is teaching your child to come under the hearing of your voice.

John 14:21 (NIV)

²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

3. Obedience is a developmental process.

Hebrews 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

Luke 2:52 (NIV)

⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Wisdom = INTELLECTUAL

Stature = PHYSICAL

Favor With God = SPIRITUAL

Favor with men = SOCIAL

Spiritual Formation and Mental Development:

0-5 Rules

6-7 Relationship

8-12 Reason

13-17 Resolve

Knowledge axiom:

Knowledge + Love + Wisdom = Convictions

1. Principle of Readiness.

Only teach children what they are mentally and emotionally capable of learning.

2. Principle of Responsibility.

Never routinely do for your children what they can do for themselves.

Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

1. So what would you say is “God’s dream” for your children?
2. What do you think about the statement that “significance and security are the primary needs for your children”?
3. What is your response to the statement that the primary responsibility of children is to learn obedience?
4. Think of a behavioral concern you have with your children. Because of where they are in the development process, what do you think they need (rules, relationship, reason, resolve)? What would this look like?
5. How have the principles of readiness and the principle of responsibility shown up in your family?
6. Update your “Prayer Journal” and make some specific requests for your children? Spend the last few minutes praying together for the children.