

Leadership in the Home

Lesson designed by: Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description: Part 2

This course continues to explore the importance of leadership in the home. In our lesson today, we focus on the role of parents raising their children at the various ages of their life. As children grow and mature, so does parenting them. The changes that occur in a child's life must be met with the ability to also change the approach to parenting.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the top five responsibilities of parents raising their children.
- B. Studied the first two major periods in a child's life and how the parent should lead during these periods.

Outline of the class:

- A. Spend the first few minutes of class reviewing the responsibilities that were prioritized and listed on the whiteboard from last week's class. This provides a foundation for the direction of today's material.
- B. Ensure that the class remains divided into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to take the next 5-10 minutes and discuss in their groups which phase of a child's development they consider to be the most challenging and explain why?
- C. After they complete this task, ask each group to share their phase and reason they believe that phase is the most challenging. The following phases are what will be discussed in today's lesson.
 - 1. Birth to three years old
 - 2. Three to five years old
 - 3. Six to ten years old (first years of school)
 - 4. Eleven to thirteen years old: preteen years
 - 5. Fourteen to eighteen years old: adolescence
- D. The material that follows for today's class describes the most important principles to remember at each stage of child development. It is not an exhaustive list, but one that provides a strong foundation.
 - 1. Birth to three years old
 - a. Fifty percent of a child's character development and personality are complete during this time.

- b. Love and affection are indispensable throughout the life of a child, but never more important than in the first years of their life. Parents need to provide an emotionally safe environment for the child during this time.
 - i. They need our presence – time
 - ii. They need our attention – interest
 - iii. They need our ear – listen to what they say
 - iv. They need our mind - approval
- c. Even at this age, a child learns from the example of the parent. Discipline must begin during this stage of a child's life but should be in moderation and understanding of the child's ability to learn and understand instruction and prohibition.
- d. Children can learn about truths about God during this stage of development.
 - i. First words
 - ii. Identification of the Bible
 - iii. Relate to God and Christ with love
 - iv. Concept of the Father
 - v. God is Creator of all
 - vi. Every blessing comes from God
- e. A few of the natural impulses of children during this stage include:
 - i. Exploration (1-2 years)
 - ii. Imitation (1-2 years)
 - iii. Identification (2-3 years)

2. Three to five years old

- a. Seventy percent of the character and personality of the child is formed by the time they reach five years of age.
- b. During this stage discipline should be well established.
 - i. Importance of discipline (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15).
 - ii. Moderation in discipline (Ephesians 6:4).
 - iii. The holy purpose of discipline (Hebrews 12:7-11)

- c. We should help a child have a proper concept of themselves as an individual, to know their value before God and in front of the family.
 - i. Created by God
 - ii. Created in the image of God
 - iii. God loves you and gave His own Son for you
 - iv. God wants you to live with Him forever
 - v. The family loves you all the time, even if we do not approve of what is done sometimes
 - vi. No one else can take their place in the family
 - vii. Assigning personal responsibility helps establish a positive concept of value.
- d. We should help them in their fight against natural selfishness.
 - i. With regard to parents
 - ii. Regarding brothers and sisters
 - iii. Regarding friends
 - iv. This should be extended to the church and people in need
 - v. This includes material possessions, time, tasks, and other responsibilities
- e. Biblical instruction during this stage should emphasize biblical accounts from the Old and New Testament. The child will identify with biblical personalities, but not as much with mandates. Christ and the other individuals mentioned in scripture are very real for children at this stage of development. We must also emphasize that Jesus is our friend.

Conclusion:

- A. The majority of a child's character and personality are developed by the time they reach the age of five. This is a crucial time for parents to lead children to understand who they are in relationship to God and the family.
- B. Parents play an incredibly significant role during this time to help in this development.
- C. Next week's lesson will focus on the next two periods in the child's development.