

Parents Setting a Course

Ephesians 6:1-4

God gives parents the responsibility to set a course for their children's lives. Are you "building a highway" or "digging a ditch"? A child is influenced by our words, decisions, and character. No parent can raise perfect offspring, but we can and should do our best to bring up youngsters who serve Him.

My mother enforced obedience. I learned quickly that the degree to which I disobeyed was the degree to which she disciplined me. She occasionally used a switch to bring me around to her way of thinking. But even more painful were her well-deserved lectures. Mother gently but firmly explained that she worked hard to care for us. While she was at the mill, she expected me to do what was right. By the time her talk ended, I was usually in tears. I understood repentance long before I knew the word.

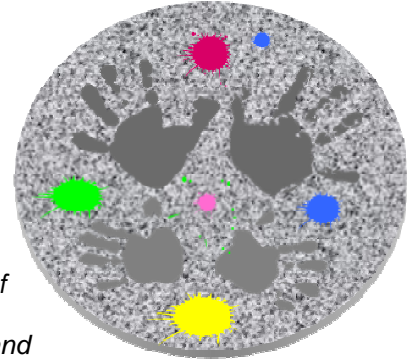
My mother loved me, so she demanded obedience. And when I didn't comply, she used discipline. She realized that I had to learn to follow her direction before I would listen to other authority figures or my heavenly Father. Of the Lord she always said, "Obey Him because He is God." Mother offered no more explanation than that, but with those words, she paved the way for someone else to extend my faith highway.

My grandfather continued my spiritual education. He said, "If God tells you to run your head through a brick wall, start running. When you get to the wall, He'll make a hole for it." In other words, obey God and leave the consequences to Him--the very lesson I encourage parents to model for their children.

GRAND DAYS

Ideas For Sharing Faith Moments Between Grandparents and Grandkids

“Grandparents express desires for their grandchildren to love and serve God. How can you be involved in your grandchild’s spiritual journey? By being involved in his or her life. By talking to him about things that matter – and most things matter somehow, but you have to discern how they matter... The time you spend with your grandchildren are what they are going to remember most about you. They will probably not know much about what you did at work or the sorts of grades you received at school. They won’t care that much about your clubs or organizations – much less understand them. But they will be formed, shaped and molded by being with you and getting to know you as you are.”



The above paragraph is an excerpt from the book *Grand Days* by Group Publishing. This book is a practical book that shows you how you can have a great relationship with your grandkids, whether they live close by or are across the town or the country.

In this book they give you projects to make together. Games to play together, outings that let you explore the world together. They give you cooking and eating suggestions that help you taste the world together, storytelling that connects the generations together and books and movies to enjoy together. Here is a suggestion they give for you and your grandchildren:

“Growing Step By Step”



Enrich your backyard with fun memories – and mark your grandchildren’s growth – by making handprint-themed garden steppingstones together. In most craft stores, kits with all the needed supplies to make basic cement garden stepping stones are readily available: they range in price from about \$10 to \$15. You can also buy embellishments such as colored, round stones, cut glass (to create a mosaic effect), and letters to “stamp” into the wet cement to create words.

With you grandchild, draw a plan for your stone before you start. Because once you’ve poured the wet cement, you’ll need to work fast! Be sure to include a handprint of your grandchild in the design; over time, you can create additional stones together and watch the handprints grow bigger and bigger.

BRIDGE BUILDER:

This is a natural opportunity to talk with your grandchild about growing up. Ask her questions like:

- What do you want to be when you grow up? Why
- If you could live anywhere in the world when you grow up, where would you want to live? Why?
- Who are some people that you want to be like when you grow up?
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If You would like to purchase this book, you can go to Group Publishing or to ChristianBook.com and purchase online. 📖

Church Events For April

Wednesday, April 1st Servant Evangelism Training 7pm in the Conference Room

Saturday, April 4th and Sunday, April 5th Westside Mass Choir
Easter Musical – “The Last Easter” 6:30 pm nightly

Sunday, April 5th Pastoral Care Dinner 12:15pm and Seed Sowers
1:30 pm and No Kids Church Service

Thursday, April 9th Alliance Women’s Meeting 7pm

Saturday, April 11th Spring Fling 11am – 2pm – Bring a Friend Day and
“Bag A Gift” outreach event

Sunday, April 12th Easter No Evening Services

Fri. – Sun. April 17th - 19th Alliance Women’s Retreat Weekend

Wednesday, April 22nd Open Air Campaigning (OAC) Training Part 1 7pm

Wednesday, April 29th Open Air Campaigning (OAC) Training Part 2
7pm



“Judas Asparagus”

For All of You Who Thought You Knew the Bible!

May everyone enjoy reading or re-reading this delightfully lighthearted story about a boy and his bible story expertise...



A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible.

This is amazing and brought tears of laughter to my eyes.

I wonder how often we take for granted that children understand what we are teaching???

Through the eyes of a child: *The Children's Bible in a Nutshell*

“In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, ‘The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, ‘Give me a light!’ and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.

Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets.

One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn.

(I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, ‘Close the door! Were you born in a barn?’

It would be nice to say, ‘As a matter of fact, I was.’)

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyway, Jesus died for our sins then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum.

His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.” ■

Japan Celebrates Milestone

[Wed, 18 Mar 2009 09:35:45 -0600]

Alliance churches in Japan are gearing up to celebrate 150 years of Christian ministry in that country. "Churches from all over Japan are joining together to praise the Lord for bringing the good news to Japan and to carry out evangelistic ministries," says field director **Harry Landaw**.

A Rich History

The Alliance has a rich history in Japan, dating back to 1893, and has played a key role in advancing the gospel there. "Through early Alliance missionary efforts, many souls were won and many churches were planted in western Japan," says Harry, writing in *Alliance Life*.

Miss Mabel Francis, an Alliance pioneer missionary to Japan, received the country's highest civilian award, the medal of the Fifth Order of the Sacred Treasure. The governor of Ehime Prefecture had requested that the government and the emperor honor Miss Francis for her contribution "to the welfare of the Japanese people in their distress and confusion at the time of their defeat [in World War II] and for the long years spent in leading hundreds of Japanese to the knowledge of God."

"She was the first person in Japan's history to receive [the medal] while still alive," says Harry.

Full-Circle Missions

Today, the Alliance national church in Japan is sending cross-cultural workers to other parts of the world. Mariko Hidaka, a recent graduate of the Japan Alliance School of Theology, will serve as a missionary to Brazil. "Please pray for this young woman who has committed her life to serving the Lord cross culturally," says Harry.

Learn More

Read an **article** by Mabel Francis in *The Alliance Witness* (forerunner to *Alliance Life*).

Read the article **Miss Francis Receives Key to the City** in *The Alliance Witness*.

Check out our Alliance work in **Japan**.

What You Can Do

Pray for Alliance churches and believers as they participate in reaching out to share the gospel in their communities during the anniversary celebration. Pray that this will be a year of revival in Japan.

Donate to Alliance Great Commission Ministries to support our workers around the world, including those in Japan. 📄