



8 Parenting Essentials

Being a parent is the greatest calling in life. The joys that accompany the challenges are not always in equal proportion but they come at the most needed times. With the advent of the Internet and virtually unlimited accessibility, there are now thousands of readily available resources that can help us in this role and gift God has given us. This month, we would like to offer to you 8 essential parenting "skills" that can help us in the journey to navigate these waters.

#1—TRUST IN GOD

Although we shoulder the responsibility for training and rearing our children, God doesn't expect us to do this without our reliance on His direction, grace and mercy. This should comfort you right off the start. He loves our kids more than we do. Let that sink in. He is at work in our lives and is at work in the lives of your children as well. *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28

#2—A SOFT AND TENDER HEART

Let's face it, our kids will test us—often. We should always be looking at our parenting opportunities the same way our heavenly Father parents us. Grace, mercy and compassion. *"A gentle answer turns away wrath."* - Proverbs 15:1. How does God correct us when we mess up or test His patience?

#3—TOUGH SKIN

However, there will be times when our kids will say something that may be generated out of their own pain, hormones, peer issues or pre-teen angst. Wherever it comes from, we need to be the "finders of good" in the situation and help guide them through and past the issue. This requires thick skin and a measure of healing in our own lives. The daily renewing of our mind is critical in caring for ourselves and our family. *Romans 12:1-2*

#4—VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our children have not walked the road that we have journeyed. God has a unique plan for each and every one of our kids. Understanding how they are wired, what their gift mix is and the passions that keep them up at night is important for us to know as we direct them toward adulthood. Colleges are filled with students who do not have a clue as to what they are supposed to be studying. Many do not declare a major until their Junior year because they don't know what they want to do with their lives. Start to talk with your child early about life vision and ask God for direction. He knows why your child was created. Its part of His plan! *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* - Jeremiah 29:11

#5—COMMUNICATION IS NOT ALWAYS "CONNECTION"

It's been said that *"people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."* This is never more true than with our children. We have a lot to tell our kids, but if we are not connected to their hearts by knowing what their needs are, we will sound like a broken record to them. Our children, especially our older kids, want to be deeply connected to you. To do this well, we need to enter their world and build the relationship on their level, using their language and understanding of the world as they see it. It is from this point that we can build a strong lasting relationship with them.

#6—LISTEN WELL

Listening to our kids is one of the hardest things we can do as a parent. They have much to say and are looking for someone who will pay attention. Our proximity as parents makes us the logical recipients. However, proximity does not always equal "presence". When our kids are talking to us, we need to listen with our ears, hear with our heart and see with our eyes. Personal communication is made up of 7% words, 38% tone of voice and 55% body language. Be the one they choose to talk to. *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."* Proverbs 25:11

#7—DON'T TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY!

Parenting can be fun. Really! A good sense of humor will be needed, especially when you are looking at the hole in the wall from the latest adolescent wrestling match. The wall can be repaired more easily than the emotional damage from ongoing anger, hostility and a general sense of "egg-shell-walking." The atmosphere we create with our own reactions will either draw our kids closer or repel them out the door as early as they can legally leave. That is not God's best for our families. *"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones".* - Proverbs 17:22

#8—KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND STAND FOR

Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is looking. Your "Yes is Yes and your No is No". Family core values are strongly held convictions that guide us in our lifestyle and decision making. If you have decided that dating before a certain age is how you will lead your family, then communicate that value, why its important and stick to it. You will never be surprised by someone showing up at the door claiming to be your daughters boyfriend. It wont happen because as a family, you have talked about core values, communicated guidelines and the beliefs your family holds as central to "house rules". This applies to every aspect of your life. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.



EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS

PRESCHOOL

WEEK 1

EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS - GENESIS 1:1; MARK 16:15

READ Genesis 1:1; Mark 16:15 We are learning that Everyone Needs Jesus. This week in VicKids, we learned God created everyone and we all need Jesus.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Read Genesis 1:1 in an easy-to-understand version with your child. Talk to your child about the verse, emphasizing God created each person differently. Point out the differences in the hair, eye, and skin color in different people your child is familiar with. Then point out similarities between them. Talk about different languages people speak. Explain that even though people may talk to God in different languages, He understands each person. Remind your child God wants people all around the world to know they need Jesus.

Prayer Time - Dear God, thank You for making all the people in the world and loving all of us the same no matter where we are. We love You. In Jesus name, Amen!

WEEK 2

MISSIONARIES TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS - MARK 16:15

READ Mark 16:15 Today we learned that missionaries are all over the world and they tell others about Jesus.

EXPLORE TOGETHER A missionary is someone who tells others about Jesus. Talk about missionaries your church supports. Find the country on a globe or atlas where they live. Look on the Internet or find age appropriate books about that country. Discover what language is spoken in that country and what are some foods the people eat. If able, visit an International market and look for some of those foods. Consider finding a recipe for a common food from that country and making it for dinner one evening.

Prayer Time - Dear God, help us remember to tell others about Jesus and His love for us. Help us to obey Your Word and be a missionary wherever we are. We love You. In Jesus name, Amen!

WEEK 3

I AM A MISSIONARY - MARK 16:15

READ Mark 16:15 This week in VicKids, we learned God wants us to be missionaries and tell others about Jesus.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Help your children practice showing Jesus to others in a simple, yet practical, way. Create blessing bags to donate to a homeless shelter. Gather items such as socks, hand wipes, hand warmers, bottles of water, applesauce and plastic spoons, chapstick, travel-sized toothbrush and toothpaste, etc. Place the items in gallon-size plastic bag. Cut construction paper into fourths. Write Jesus Loves You on one side of the construction paper. Allow your child to draw a picture on the other side. Place one in each bag. Talk with your child as you make the bags together and help them understand the impact this can make on someone else's life.

Prayer Time - Dear God, thank You for helping us know how to show Jesus to others through our words and actions. We love You. In Jesus name, Amen!

WEEK 4

PHILIP WAS A MISSIONARY - MARK 16:15; ACTS 8:26-38

READ Mark 16:15; Acts 8:26-38 All month long we have talked about how Everyone Needs Jesus. Today we learned Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Jesus gave His followers an important job to do—to go and tell others about Him. Philip obeyed this command and told the Ethiopian man about Jesus. But he didn't stop with just him. Philip went on to tell many others about Jesus. Remind your child we want to tell others about Jesus whenever we can. Your two-year old is not too young to learn how to share Jesus with others. Make a habit of talking to your child about Jesus and what He has done in your life and the world.

Prayer Time - Dear God, thank You for the example of Philip who shared Jesus with the man from Ethiopia. Help us share Jesus with those around us. We love You. In Jesus name, Amen!

THANKFUL IN CHRIST

ELEMENTARY

THANKFUL FOR UNITY - 1 CORINTHIANS

WEEK 1

READ 1 Corinthians This week in VicKids your student learns about being thankful for unity in the Body of Christ. They learned about Paul and the letters he wrote to the Corinthian church, he used words of encouragement and guidance to help them see that Jesus needed to be the center of their lives. What are some kind things we can say to help people focus more on Jesus and less about themselves?

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take time this week to talk with your student about why you ask them to do certain things around the house. Let them know that regardless of what we ask of them, we are always looking out for their best interest. When they do what is asked of them, it creates harmony and unity in the home and in their hearts. Ask your student - "What is one way you can show your thankfulness to your parents and God?"

Pray - God, I thank you that when I choose to obey and walk in a spirit of unity, I am a reflection of You. When I do this, I am being more like You and that can draw others to You! In Jesus name, Amen!

PURITY IN CHRIST - 1 CORINTHIANS, ROMANS 13:11-14

WEEK 2

CONTINUE READING 1 CORINTHIANS. REFERENCE ROMANS 13:11-14 This week in VicKids your student learns about how and why God puts people in authority over us to help us make good choices. They continued to learn about the Apostle Paul and how he had to correct the church in Corinth because of the sin and impurity they walked in.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take time this week to talk with your student about how they feel when you have to correct them. Ask them why they feel this way? What are some ways that we as parents can help our children make better choices and not fall into sin? Ask your student what they think "living pure" means. What can we do as parents to help our children live a life of purity? What standard do you have that helps to keep your life pure? Talk with your student about what a life of purity looks like to them and commit to help them live that out!

Pray - Jesus, thank you for giving me the desire to make the right choices and live a life of purity. Help me to guard my eyes, my ears and my heart from things that could pull me away from You. Give me the courage to help others with this life of purity by speaking the truth to them about sin and things that can keep us from being more like You. In Jesus name, Amen!

CONTENT IN CHRIST - 1 KINGS 7, PHILLIPIANS 4:11-12

WEEK 3

READ 1 Kings 7 and Phillipians 4:11-12 This week your student learns about being content with what they have and the way things are. They learned about the riches of King Solomon and also about the traveling and hard missionary life of the Apostle Paul.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Take time this week to talk with your student about the very different lives of these two great Biblical characters. Explore the riches of Solomon's life and how he was still not content. The Book of Ecclesiastes gives a great picture of someone who had it all, yet was still sad and discontent. Contrast this life with Paul and how he counted it great gain to live a life of hardship while he fulfilled the mission Jesus called him to.

Pray - Thank you Jesus for showing us the example of contentment that God the Father gave you while on earth. Thank you for showing us how Paul handled a challenging life, yet did not waiver in serving you and bringing others into your Kingdom! In Jesus name, Amen!

FREEDOM IN CHRIST - 1 CORINTHIANS 8, MATTHEW 6:33

WEEK 4

READ 1 Corinthians 8 This week in VicKids your student learns about how sin can show itself in their lives. They learn about idols, pride, being unkind, disobedience and carrying hate in their heart.

EXPLORE TOGETHER This week, talk with your student about how sin is not just about what we say, but about how we act, think and obey what God or our parents asks of us. Explore with your student things that can be a distraction to them and keep them from walking in the freedom God has for them. Are there things that they choose to do or think about before their time with God? What is that called? Can they point to idols in their life that are keeping them from walking in the freedom that God has for them? Talk about it!

Pray - Jesus, thanks you for showing me the truth about things I have put before You. Help me to seek after You first. Help me to prioritize my relationships so that I can be thankful, pure in my thoughts and actions, content in all I do and have and free to seek after your presence in my life. In Jesus name, Amen!

CONNECTING AT HOME

victoryathome.com

Have You Been to FORWARD?

No matter who you are or where you are, everyone is called to move forward. **Forward Basics** consists of four transformational sessions that will challenge you to reach the next level in your relationship with Jesus. These essential principles will help you to sustain spiritual and emotional health. They'll also lay the foundation for you to hear God's voice, and empower you to lead the life He created you to live.

Join us any Sunday at 9am in the Norcross Chapel or check online for availability at our other campus locations for this life changing ministry!

Campus Calendar

NORCROSS

- 11/3 - Victory at Home - 5:30 pm
Parent Child Dedication Workshop
- 11/10 - Victory at Home - 10:00 am
Parent Child Dedication Ceremony
- 11/10 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation
- 11/10, 11/18 - Operation Christmas Child shoe-box collection

HAMILTON MILL

- 11/11, 12/09 - VicKids Orientation
- 11/11, 11/18 - Operation Christmas Child shoe-box collection

MIDTOWN

Victory Midtown is now meeting at The Gathering Spot. With the new momentum of this campus, Vickids Children's Ministry would like to invite you to serve with us! Please connect with Tyree Smith at tsmith@victoryatl.com to learn more about this opportunity!

Campus Service Times

NORCROSS - SAT 6 PM, SUN 9 & 11 AM, 1 PM

HAMILTON MILL - SUN 9 & 11 AM, 1 PM

MIDTOWN - SUN 9 & 11 AM

"God gave us just one mouth, but He gave you two ears, so you should listen twice as much as you speak"

Nick Vujicic

MISSIONS TRIP TO CHINA! - Interest Meeting

Victory at Home and VicKids will be hosting an interest meeting for our 2019 missions trip to Beijing, China.

Date: November 18, 2018

Time: After 11am and 1pm service

Location: Guest Experience Suite, main lobby at Norcross campus

Go to victoryatl.com/china2019/ for more information!

Follow us on:



VICKIDSATL

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. **Colossians 3:17 NLT**

Additional Resources

victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/