

PARENTING

Talking Points

- As parents, your influence in the lives of your children is more valuable and beneficial than control. Control can be a false sense of security.
- Children are created in the image of God. He has a purpose and plan for their lives. They are wired by God to serve others.
- Parents' responsibility includes spiritual growth and development of their children.
- God's love is greater than a parents' love.
- Children are more resilient than we realize.
- Focus on being a parent, not a buddy.
- Consequences for actions should be RSVP:
 - Reasonable, simple, valuable, and practical
- Time matters and time flies. Words communicate value. Spend them well. Words have the power to direct, bring freedom, lead to wonder, and lead to discovery.

Scriptures

Proverbs 22:6	Proverbs 1:8-9
Luke 2:39-52	Proverbs 23:22-24
Hebrews 12:11	Proverbs 29:17
1 Samuel 1:27-28	Psalms 139:13-16
Deuteronomy 6:6-9	

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank you for your unconditional love and for the times you disciplined me out of that love. Help me to be that kind of parent for my kids. It's hard work. I invite you to join me daily in parenting. I ask for wisdom, grace, and mercy as I walk this journey. Together, God, let's do this. Amen.

Suggested Reading

- *Losing Your Marbles, Playing for Keeps*
Reggie Joiner
- *Grace Based Parenting*
Tim Kimmel
- *The 5 Love Languages of Children*
Gary D. Chapman, Ross Campbell
- *Parenting the Wholehearted Child: Captivating Your Child's Heart with God's Extravagant Grace*
Jeannie Cunnion, Elisabeth Hasselbeck

Online Resources

- orangeparents.org
- parentssmashingpones.com
- middleschoolyears.com
- crosswalk.com
- familymatters.net
- todayschristianwoman.com
- radicalparenting.com
- christianitytoday.com - search 'parenting'

Local Counselors

Life Connections Counseling Center
813.265.3859

Laurel A. Slade, Counseling Services, P.A.
813.909.4463

CenterPointe Counseling & Recovery
Gene Cowherd, LMHC, CAP
813.513.9539

