



**Course Name: Home - Parental Leadership #1**

Material by Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

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**Course description:**

This course explores the leadership of parents in the home. The primary focus of this first lesson involves the role of parents raising their children. While this is one of several to follow on this subject, the foundation discusses parenting at all ages of a child's life.

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

- A. Discussed at least five challenges for parents in raising children.
- B. Reviewed the instruction of God about the role of parents from the book of Deuteronomy.
- C. Listed, discussed, and prioritized the top five responsibilities parents have in raising their children.

**Outline of the class:**

- A. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and ask each group to take about ten minutes to list as many challenges as possible parents encounter when raising children.
- B. After they complete their list, ask each group to share one or two and go around to each group until everything has been discussed. Write their responses on a whiteboard.
- C. We would all agree that raising children in our world today is one of the most challenging tasks a parent will undertake.
  - 1. We know the principles presented in the Bible are applicable at all times and are essential for parents who want to achieve success in raising their children.
  - 2. There are no perfect children because there are no perfect parents. However, the role of a father and mother in the home, while a serious responsibility, is one that can be successful and enjoyable.
  - 3. We must also remember that every child, after reaching a certain age, is responsible for their own decisions, attitudes, and actions (Ezekiel 18:20).
- D. A relationship with God and His word is key to parenting in the Christian home. Take a moment to review Deuteronomy 6:1-9.
  - 1. The word of God must be on your heart (6:1-4, 6)
    - a. We must learn to love Him
    - b. We must learn from Him
    - c. We must practice what He teaches

2. God should be our first and primary love (6:5)
  3. We should instruct our children to do the same (6:7-9). Consider how and when we can fulfill this responsibility.
    - a. Repetition
    - b. During all family times
    - c. Travel and recreation
    - d. Last thought at night
    - e. First thought in the morning
    - f. Visual memories
- E. General responsibilities of Christian parents
1. Ask each group to spend about 5-10 minutes to list what they believe are the top three responsibilities of parents in the home.
  2. Then, take one from each group and list on the whiteboard their responses. Go around to each group until all the responsibilities are listed and ask the class to categorize the responsibilities in order of priority.
  3. Here are a few suggestions to add if they are not suggested by the class.
    - a. Love your children and show them affection
    - b. Discipline children properly
    - c. Instruct them in the word of God
    - d. Be a Christian example for our children in every area of life
    - e. Pray with them and for them every day
    - f. Provide for their needs: physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual

Conclusion:

- A. Today, we've discussed a number of areas about parenting. The role of parenting is a great leadership task and one given by God. We need to learn from what we find in the Old Testament and how to make a modern-day application.
- B. The responsibilities of parenting are great, but when we prioritize those priorities we find a way to focus on one at a time to help us in the task God sets before us in this great role.
- C. Next week's lesson will further develop the role of parenting as it relates to the various ages of a child's life.