



Course Name: Home - Parental Leadership #3

Material by Larry White, adapted by Bob Turner

Course description:

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 during the next two phases of their life (first years of school and preteen). Parenting children through these phases must adapt as children experience changes in their life.

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 next 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 a couple highlights from the first two major areas of child development.
- 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 at least one major area they believe that challenges parenting a child during their preteen years and how they think that area might be addressed.
- C. After they complete this task, ask each group to share the area they believe to be most challenging in parenting a preteen and how they would address that challenge.
- D. The material that follows for today's class describes the next two important stages in child development. Again, it is not an exhaustive list of principles related to these stages, but one that provides a strong foundation.
 - 1. Six to ten years old (first years of school)
 - a. During this stage of a child's development, their contact with the world is increased and consequently, outside influences (good and bad) also increase.
 - b. It is very important that the child begin to distinguish between good and evil during this stage.
 - c. The child has a great ability and interest in learning and memorizing facts over the years. Parents should use this to learn the fundamentals of God's word.

- d. The child is more active than ever and activities as a family are very important. It is important to also invite other friends of the child for these activities when feasible.
 - e. Self-discipline should be developed during this step. You should increase the child's responsibilities (including their school work).
 - f. Ask each group to take a moment and discuss one area where family activities might be conducted and make a list of those on the whiteboard.
 - g. Also ask for each group to provide one way to increase the child's responsibility in the home (besides school work).
2. Eleven to thirteen years old: preteen years
- a. This is a time where the shock of puberty is experienced.
 - b. We should prepare children in advance for physical changes and emotional disorders that begin.
 - c. The importance of a consistent life increases during this stage.
 - d. Biblical instruction presented during these years should include:
 - i. Gospel of Jesus and how to obey
 - ii. Biblical principles of morality
 - iii. Christian responsibilities
 - iv. Grace and mercy of God
 - v. Biblical concept of the church
 - vi. Marriage
 - e. Peer pressure increases during this time.
 - i. Fashion
 - ii. Music
 - iii. Challenges of social media (abuse of electronic devices)
 - iv. Harmful habits (smoking, drugs, alcohol, etc.)
 - v. Sex
 - vi. Struggle for independence

Conclusion:

- A. The two stages discussed in today's lesson are also critical roles in the development of a child, especially as they approach adolescence. The groundwork laid in leading them through this period of life is vital to the direction of leading them through adolescence.

- B. As with all stages, parents play a significant role during this time to help in the child's development.
- C. Next week's lesson will focus on the final period in the child's development and perhaps the most challenging to address as a parent leading them into adulthood.