

DISCIPLESHIP IN PARENTING

Strategic Prayers for the Intentional Parent

ASK : AM I NOT ONLY OWNING BUT ACTIVELY INVESTING IN MY INFLUENCE, WHICH IMPACTS MY CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL LIVES?

Pray: for the grace to model a life following Christ well, and for creativity to turn daily life into teachable moments so your children begin to see how Jesus is part of their everyday lives (Eph. 5:2, Prov. 22:6)
MORE EXAMPLES: Prov. 31:1, Matt. 14:8, 2 Tim. 1:15

Jeremiah 3:19
"I myself said, 'How gladly would I treat you like my children and give you a pleasant land...'"

ASK : ARE MY WORDS LIFE-GIVING: WISE AND FAITHFUL TO THE WORD IN ORDER TO BUILD UP MY CHILDREN?

Pray: for wisdom and self-control to let the Spirit guide your words so they build your children up (2 Tim. 1:7, Eph. 4:29)

Jeremiah 32:39
"I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well... for their children..."

ASK : AM I CAREFUL NOT ONLY TO DISCIPLINE MY CHILDREN WHEN THEY NEED IT, BUT ALSO IN HOW I DISCIPLINE - STRATEGICALLY THINKING THROUGH LOGICAL & CREATIVE CONSEQUENCES (I.E. RESPONDING INSTEAD OF SIMPLY REACTING)?

Pray: for self-control to not act out of anger, but to have wisdom in how to respond to your child's behavior in a way that will not cause him to lose heart but desire repentance (Heb. 12:5-6, Col. 3:21)

2 Chron. 22:3
"[Ahaziah] also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor in doing wickedly."

ASK : AM I GLAD TO GIVE THE BEST PARTS OF MYSELF TO MY KIDS: MY TIME, MY ENERGY, MY ATTENTION?

Pray: that the Lord would give you an abundance of patience, kindness, gentleness, & self-control to treat your children with the love the Father gives us (Gal. 5:22, 1 John 3:1)

Proverbs 31:26-28
"She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue..."

ASK : AM I SINGLE-MINDED IN MY LOVE FOR JESUS, PURSUING HIM BECAUSE IT'S ALSO FOR MY CHILDREN'S BEST, REMEMBERING THAT IT'S "FROM THE OVERFLOW OF THE HEART THAT THE MOUTH SPEAKS," & THAT WHAT I OFFER MY CHILDREN WHEN MY HEART IS FIXED ON JESUS IS THEREFORE FROM HIM AND NOT JUST MYSELF?

Pray: for a heart fully committed to the Father and the Gospel of Jesus (2 Chron. 16:9, Phil. 3:7-8)

Proverbs 13:24
"Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them."

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ASK : WHEN I LOOK AT MY CHILDREN, DO I ALWAYS SEE THEM AS A GIFT FROM THE LORD? DO I SEE MYSELF AS BLESSED IN BEING ENTRUSTED WITH THEIR CARE?

Pray: for perspective – that the Father would help you think generationally, and that, in the everyday mundane moments with your children, you would remember it's never too early to begin investing spiritually in someone! (Prov. 22:6, Deut. 6:6-7)

Proverbs 29:15
“. . . a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

ASK : AM I PHYSICALLY/EMOTIONALLY/ SPIRITUALLY A SAFE PLACE OF NOURISHMENT (NURSING), HELP (CARRIED), JOY (BOUNCING), AND COMFORT FOR MY CHILDREN?

Pray: for a heart that not only desires but actively engages with your kids to become like this (nourishing, helpful, joyful, and burden-bearing) for them (Col. 3:15-17, Rom. 15:13)

Isaiah 40:29-31
“He gives strength to the weary & increases the power of the weak.. those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength...”

Jeremiah 3:19
“I myself said, ‘How gladly would I treat you like my children and give you a pleasant land...’”

ASK : DO I PRESS IN AND ENGAGE WITH MY KIDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ASK, AND EVEN WHEN I'D RATHER BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE OR THEY SEEM “FINE ENOUGH” PLAYING ON THEIR OWN?

Pray: for humility to put your children's best interest above your own, and to serve them in love (Phil. 2:3-4, Mark 10:45)

Is. 66:12-13
“...you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, & bounced upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.”

ASK : AM I TRYING TO DO THIS ON MY OWN STRENGTH, AIMING FOR PERFECTION? DO I EQUATE MISTAKES AS FAILURE AND GROW EASILY DISCOURAGED? OR AM I ABIDING IN JESUS, TRUSTING GOD TO DO THE WORK, AND BELIEVING HE CHOSE ME & HIS GRACE IS MADE PERFECT IN MY WEAKNESSES?

Pray: for trust in God's perfect grace and the ability to remember that in His perfect sovereignty, these are the people He chose to put in your sphere of influence (2 Cor. 9:8, Gal. 6:9).