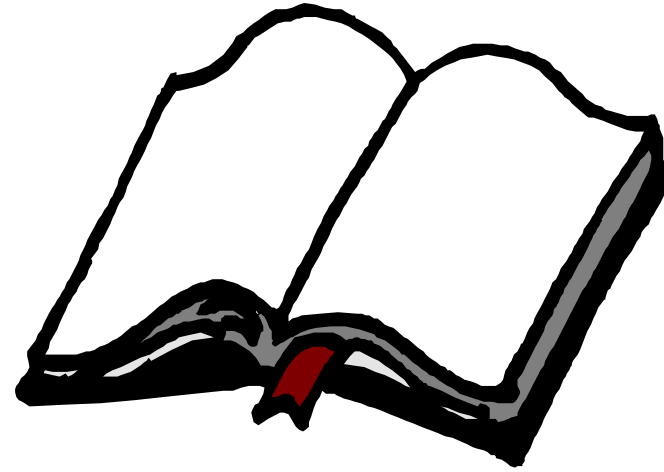


Look in the Book!



The "Look in the Book" series was designed to be printed on legal sized paper (8 1/2" x 14"). For better clarity, it should be printed front to back and folded as a brochure, beginning with page 2 (lesson 1 front).



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Where Are All The Children?

Parenting Is A Privilege Not A Problem!

Through the open door we could see our four-year-old son skipping and jumping alone in the front yard. We had just finished lunch and the Spring day offered too much enticement to keep Bryson inside. He had been cooped up all Winter long and, like a new colt that had just found its balance, he wanted to jump over everything and then roll in the grass.

As we sat back watching Bryson's childlike expressions and marveling at his youthful energy, my mother asked a question that eventually inspired the book from which this article is taken. "Where are all the children?" she wanted to know. "When I was a child, Springtime meant children. Kids were everywhere. As we closed our doors in the Fall one set of kids went in, but when the doors opened again in the Spring it seemed like hundreds more came out. Where have all the children gone?"

Cindy and I were married nine years before God blessed us with our precious little boy, Bryson. In the years before and after, we have experienced two miscarriages and much heartache over the desire to have children. It is because of this heartache and many other convictions that we have a passion to encourage parenthood. Other than spiritual blessings, the human ability to procreate may be the greatest gift God ever gave to His creation. Just as He entrusted the message of salvation into the hands of men, He has also entrusted us with the power to pass along life.

In Genesis 1:28, God told Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it." (NKJV) In Genesis 9:1 He repeated this command to Noah, his sons and their wives. In Psalm 127:3, God said that "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him." These and many other passages like them emphasize God's timeless desire for His creation to experience family life.

There is a very important reason for this. God has throughout time used the physical family to define the spiritual realm. In Psalm 89:26, and many other places, God is referred to as a father. In Ephesians 3:15, God's people are referred to as His family, in Romans 8:14 as his sons and in I John 3:10 as his children. In John 14, Jesus comforts his followers by referring to Heaven as a huge house with many rooms that are being prepared for all of God's children. Perhaps the most touching use of the physical family to define the spiritual family is the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. All through scripture, the Holy Spirit has paralleled the spiritual family with the physical family to help us better understand the spirit world. Much about the spiritual realm is difficult for our human minds to conceive. These illustrations help us relate in a small way to God's values.

Understanding that the physical family plays such an important role in defining spiritual principles, we can begin to see why God has placed such a heavy emphasis on parenthood, procreation and

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Parenting and Loving It!

1. Assault On The Family



Look 
in the Book!

Bible Studies by Sonny Childs
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

family values in His Holy Word. When the church fails to uphold God-centered family values, God's illustration loses its impact. When Christians fail to set a proper example of God's design for the roles of men and women in the home, the world has no illustration to draw them into their role in the spiritual family. When church leaders begin diluting God's words of condemnation for alternative life-styles, God's picture of the spirit realm is smeared and distorted. God's desire for us to "be fruitful and multiply" has much more importance than just physical reproduction. Family life defines the very principles that one day will determine where we spend eternity.

The book from which this article was drawn, "Where Are All The Children?", contains a message that is not popular with many in the world. It is the author's firm conviction that homosexuality, abortion and non-parent child care exist at the very core of Satan's scheme to destroy God's physical illustration of the spiritual realm. Just as the homosexual life-style, within itself, makes it impossible to conceive, and abortion destroys children before they are born, the popularity of non-parent child care signals a decline in the emphasis we place on the home and the priority to "be fruitful and multiply".

God's plan for the family is under massive attacks in America today! The sins of alternative life-styles, fetal terminations and parental neglect are popularized in the media and even in the church. The conclusion above strikes at the very heart of some of the most controversial issues in America today. As has so often been true throughout history, God's principles are not

politically correct. But, shown to be equally true throughout history, God's word stands long after civilizations crumble. Stand on solid ground. It is family values that gives the world a glimpse into Heaven. What does the world see in your home?

"If I Were The Devil"

By Paul Harvey

If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the world in darkness. I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree- thee.

So I'd set about, however necessary, to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, "Do as you please". To the young I would whisper that the Bible is a myth. I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good and what's good is bad. And the old I would teach to pray after me, "Our Father, which art in Washington..."

And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves and nations at war with themselves until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have the mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the Devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions-- just let those run wild until, before you knew it, you'd have to have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every school house door. Within a decade, I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls and church money.

If I were the Devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who want it until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what'll you bet, I could get whole states to promote gambling as THE way to get rich. I would caution against extremes and hard work and patriotism and moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that partying is more fun. I would convince them that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

In other words, if I were the Devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he is doing.

Many homosexuals have 50 or more partners each year, often children
There is an abortion every 20 seconds
Over 60% of America's four-year-olds are already in daycare

Look in the Book!

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Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Genesis 1:28, John 14:1-4

1. Does God still want mankind to multiply even though some say that we have already over populated the earth?
2. What are five spiritual principles for which God has used the physical family to illustrate?
3. How does the growing popularity of homosexuality, abortion and non-parent child care threaten children and God's design for the family?

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Cat's In The Cradle

My child arrived just the other day, He came to the world in the usual way.
But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay. He learned to walk while I was away.
And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew, He'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, Dad.
You know I'm gonna be like you."

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, Little boy blue and the man in the moon.
"When you coming home, Dad?" "I don't when, But we'll get together then.
You know we'll have a good time then."

My son turned ten just the other day. He said, "Thanks for the ball, Dad, come on let's play.
Can you teach me to throw?" I said, "Not today, I got a lot to do." He said, "That's okay."
And he walked away, but his smile never dimmed. He said, "I'm gonna be like him, yeah.
You know I'm gonna be like him."

Well, he came from college just the other day, So much like a man I just had to say,
"Son, I'm proud of you. Can you sit for awhile?" Then he shook his head, and he said with a smile,
"What I'd really like, Dad, is to borrow the car keys. See you later.
Can I have them please?"

I've long since retired and my son's moved away. I called him up just the other day.
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind." He said, "I'd love to, Dad, if I can find the time.
You see, my new job's a hassle and the kids with the flu, But it's sure nice talkin' to you, Dad.
It's been sure nice talkin' to you."

And as I hung up the phone it occurred to me, He'd grown up just like me.
My boy was just like me. And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon,
Little boy blue and the man in the moon. "When you comin' home, Son?" "I don't know when,
But we'll get together then, Dad.
You know we'll have a good time then."

-Harry Chapin

Dad - the poem above begs that you answer one very important question - What will your child be like if he grows up just like you? Absolutely nothing is more important than the spiritual well-being of you and your family. Your child might make straight A's, be named captain of the football team or be voted most likely to succeed, but if they miss Heaven they are a failure. Plan for eternity. Make the sacrifices now to ensure that you will be together then.

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Parenting and Loving It!

2. Take Time Dad



Look 
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Bible Studies by Sonny Childs
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

It Takes Time To Discipline

There is perhaps no greater responsibility given to a father than the command to lovingly discipline his children. A father has at least two tools at his disposal that can help make him an effective disciplinarian. He does not need to go to a special school to learn them, nor does he need to invest a lot of money to get them. The first tool is time.

A little boy rushed into the living room and excitedly asked his father, "Dad, how much do you make an hour?" Agitated at being interrupted from reading the evening newspaper, the man growled, "Oh, I don't know! About \$12 an hour!" At that, the boy walked out of the living room and up the stairs that led to his bedroom. Moments later, the father was again interrupted by a loud crash on the bedroom floor above him. Angrily the man stomped up the steps to investigate. When he reached the boy's bedroom, he found his son sitting in the middle of a pile of change and broken pieces from his piggy bank. "Son! What are you doing?" asked the father in a very critical tone. The boy smiled and then answered, "I'm trying to see if I have \$12 so you can spend an hour with me."

Too many fathers have bought into Satan's politically correct propaganda that "quality time" is enough to rear a child properly. The world's view of quality time is a block of time that is set aside to be parental. But true quality time cannot

easily be scheduled or fit neatly into a space on your planner. Real quality time comes as a result of life and using unexpected opportunities to train our children about how to live. It comes when they watch us change a light-bulb in the kitchen or when they see how we react to stubbing our toe on a walk. Quality moments happen while rinsing shampoo from their hair during an evening bath or while tying up a trash bag that is too big for one person to handle. Life is the training ground and we have access to this training facility for only a few short years. Do not waste it!

The second tool at a father's disposal is his wife. Because God has made the husband and wife "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24), it stands to reason that they should approach life as a team. Since providing for a family often requires a man to be absent from the home for hours, sometimes days at a time, it is of vital importance that his teammate be trustworthy to carry out loving discipline on his behalf.

Throughout history, God's place for men and women in the home has remained constant. Like the manna in the wilderness, God provides great blessings when His plan is followed and great spoilage when it is not. Since the time of Adam, a man's primary physical responsibility to his family has been to **go out and bring things in**. Bible history is filled with examples of this. Since the time of Eve, the woman's primary physical responsibility to her family has been to **go in and bring things out**. We see from Proverbs 31:10-

31 that a woman who knows the importance of her role, and reaches in to her family to create a secure God-centered home, is a woman whose "children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her". We see from the example of Timothy's mother, Eunice, in II Timothy 1:5 that a mother who reaches in to her child's life and brings out faith in God is a mother who is worthy of God-inspired praise.

Christian fathers across the nation simply must wake up, throw off the chains of materialism and worldly priorities, and again claim their God-given position as provider and head of the family. If they will take the lead in trimming away all unnecessary luxuries and conveniences, a mother will be able to spend more time at home and fulfill her God-given role.

Some day men everywhere will stand before God and give an answer for the way they have encouraged or discouraged their family's spiritual development. Nothing should be more important to a man than his family's spiritual well-being. His children and wife may die penniless, but if they spend eternity with God, he has been a success. On the other hand, his wife and children may become wealthy, powerful and famous, but if they miss Heaven, he is a failure and God will require an answer for his mismanagement.

*-This article was taken from the book
"Called To Be A Provider"
By Sonny Childs*

Look in the Book!

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Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

I Timothy 3:4

1. Even though I Timothy 3:4 was written for elders, why should all fathers attempt to live up to its standard?
2. What does the word "respect" mean?
3. How are the words "obey" and "respect" connected in this verse?
4. What are five signs that show a child respects his father? What are five signs that a child does not?

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A Child's Angel

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born. Before leaving Heaven he asked God a few questions:

"They tell me you are sending me to earth, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God answered, "Among the many angels, I have selected one especially for you. Your angel will take care of you."

"But tell me", asked the child, "Here in Heaven, I don't do anything but sing and smile, that's enough for me to be happy."

"Your angel will sing for you," God replied, "and your angel will smile for you every day. You will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

"How am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me, if I don't know the language that men talk?"

"Your angel will tell you the sweetest words that you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"But what am I going to do when I want to talk to You?"

"Your angel will place your hands together and teach you how to pray."

With a tone of fear the child then asked, "I've heard that on earth there are bad men. Who will protect me from them?"

"Your angel loves you very much," answered God. "She will defend you even if it means risking her own life to do so."

"But I will be sad because I will not see you anymore."

"I will always be near," said God. "And your angel will talk to you about me and will teach you the way to come back to me some day."

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, and then voices from earth were faintly heard.

In a hurried voice the child asked anxiously, "Oh God, if I am about to leave you, please tell me the name of my angel."

"Your angel's name is not important" said God, "You will call your angel... Mommy."



Little Human Blossoms

It's the little human blossoms that can holler and can run,
With their arms upheld to greet you when your working day is done,
That your eyes begin to look for when you turn into the street
And your ears begin to listen for the patter of their feet,
That make arms reach out to hold them and your face break into smiles
Oh, it's little human blossoms that makes glad life's weary miles!
And the bluest morning glory, its rare blossoms gemmed with dew,
Ain't as pretty as a baby with its arms held up to you.

I know a lot of millionaires, I know about them anyhow,
I know their very presence makes man start to scrape and bow
But I never envy them none - they don't have the things I seek,
Dollars can't climb in your arms and hold their cheek against your cheek
Like a baby can, and love you. Dollars seem plum cheap and cold
When they are put beside a baby that your arms can lift and hold.
Millions are not necessary. Roses may not climb your wall
But life without little human blossoms ain't worth anything at all.

-Anonymous

-Author unknown

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Bible Study LITB007
Series Theme: Parenting

3

Parenting and Loving It!

3. Take Time Mom



Look in the Book!

Bible Studies by Sonny Childs
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

Who Is Rearing Your Children?

The average child in America today spends more of their waking hours in an institution than they do with their own parents. The popularity of non-parent child care is exploding across the nation. According to ABC News, over 60% of four-year-olds are already in some kind of daycare. Many are rushing their children into the arms of near strangers because they have been convinced that two salaries are necessary to survive in today's world. Is it a necessity or is it materialism? Many families work two or more jobs, not because they have too many *needs* but because they have too many *wants*.

Imagine what people could save if they were willing to sacrifice just a little and buy only the things that they truly needed. Go to the closet and count the number of pairs of shoes your family owns. How many of them do they really need? Now count the number of outfits that haven't seen the light of day for the last two years. In spite of this virtual thrift shop of clothing within our very own home, we still buy hundreds of dollars worth of outfits at the beginning of each school year so that our children will fit in.

How many video games, televisions and VCR's does one family really need? We gripe about poor television content, yet we pay for cable, premium channels and satellite dishes to beam the material into our own homes with little to no restrictions. How many telephones, car phones, beepers, computers and internet hook-ups does it really take to be connected? We harp at our children because they spend too much time talking on the phone or surfing the net, yet we provide them with every new communication gadget we can find.

How many toys does one child really need? We complain about the avalanche of toys that comes tumbling out of our child's closet every

time we open the door, yet next Christmas we will again spend hundreds of dollars to surround the tree in expensive packages.

How many times do you eat out each week? What kind of exorbitant interest rates are you paying on those regular credit card purchases? What could you save if you eliminated one of the vehicles in the driveway along with its license, insurance and repair costs? Is your medium-sized house really necessary, or could a smaller one do? Is it really necessary to heat and cool the entire house even when people aren't in those rooms? Wouldn't water and juices be better for your family than sodas anyway? How many varieties of cereal are in your cupboard? How much do you spend each week to feed the pet? I don't want to sound frivolous, but the list of money-saving suggestions really is endless. The question is, are you willing to make these small sacrifices to have the time to rear your own children?

If you are using child care because you believe that it is the only way to get the bills paid, please take time right now to consider the following questions. How much of the second parent's salary is used up to pay for the babysitter, for the extra fuel to reach the child care provider and then to reach the job, for the extra vehicle (bank note, repairs, license, insurance, etc.), for extra work suits and shoes, for meals out during lunch break, etc.? When all of the expenses are finally taken into account, one finds that the second parent's job must pay extremely well in order for it to really be worth having at all. And, even if it does provide a good profit margin, one still has to wonder is the money really worth having since both parents are forced to be away from the home in order to earn it?

In Titus 2:3-5, the Holy Spirit sets forth a formula that promotes a society in which God is honored. "...teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled

and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind and to be subject to their own husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

The Greek text translated "busy at home" in verse 5 is defined by W.E. Vines as "working at home...watching or keeping the home". Perhaps the greatest insult one could ever use against a homemaker is to suggest that she does not work, has no initiative or lacks ambition to pursue her own career. Being "busy at home" **is her career**. The greatest, most honorable career a woman can ever have is to be a homemaker. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines this Greek text as "a stayer at home, i.e. domestically inclined". He also suggests that this text is associated with another Greek word that means "guard". In other words, God has called women to make a career out of homemaking and guarding this institution as one who is responsible for its well being.

Is it wrong for a woman to work outside the home? Certainly not! However, throughout history, God's primary role for men and women has remained constant. Like the manna in the wilderness, God provides great blessings when His plan is followed and great spoilage when it is not. Since the time of Adam, a man's primary physical responsibility to his family has been to **go out and bring things in**. Since the time of Eve, the woman's primary physical responsibility to her family has been to **go in and bring things out**. We see from Proverbs 31:10-31 that a woman who can engage in outside activities yet never lose focus of her primary role to create a secure God-centered home, is a woman whose "children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her".

Absolutely nothing is more important than the spiritual well-being of your family. You cannot keep this in focus without taking time with them. Your child might make straight A's, be named homecoming queen or be voted most likely to succeed, but if they miss Heaven they are a failure. Plan for eternity. Make the sacrifices now to insure that you will be together then.

-The article above was taken from the book "Called to be a Homemaker" by Sonny Childs

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Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Proverbs 31:10-31

1. How does a woman become what is stated in verses 11 and 12? How are these verses related to verse 23?
2. Why is the woman of Proverbs 31 able to "laugh at the days to come?" (Verse 25)
3. How does verse 27 relate to Titus 2:4-5?
4. How does verse 30 relate to I Peter 3:3-4

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The Money Menace

Few things create more conflict in a home and confusion in a child's life than the menacing effects of the pursuit of money. Over half of the marriages in America today end in divorce. Therapists say that conflict over money is one of the most common reasons for this tragedy. The Holy Spirit made this conclusion in I Timothy 6:10, "...the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." To have happiness and peace at home money management skills must be applied. Consider these:

1. Work

In II Thessalonians 3:10-12 Paul gives this command, "...If a man will not work, he shall not eat. We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat."

Every month, L.C. and his wife Rosie go to a post office in southern, Louisiana, and pick up nine federal welfare checks totaling \$3,893. This totals \$46,716 in tax-free income per year. Few working families in this bleak, impoverished Mississippi River backwater earn more.

Except that L.C. and Rosie do not earn it. L.C., age 56, gets \$343.50 each month because of obesity (he weighed 386 pounds when he qualified for payments). Rosie, his common law wife, receives the same amount monthly in government disability payments because she was found by the Social Security law judge to be too stressed out to work.

A visitor to their small bungalow would be hard pressed to find any sign of high living, however. The screen door hangs open. Soaps blare from the television. Roaches crawl on the walls in the living room; the kitchen is caked with dirt. The house lacks even a tele-

phone, but they do have a police scanner to monitor police calls. "That's so I know what's going on," Rosie explains.

The couple has seven children, ages 13 to 22. All of them have lagged behind in school and at various times scored poorly in psychological tests. Under the government's rules, this translated into a failure to demonstrate "age-appropriate behavior" and qualified them to each get \$458 monthly. Welfare payments such as these are so widespread in communities like this around the nation that they are popularly known as "crazy checks". (Condensed from "Baltimore Sun", John B. O'Donnell and Jim Haner, published in "Readers Digest".)

Work makes a person feel good about themselves but constantly searching for a free handout breeds misery. When one cannot or does not provide for his own he often feels frustrated, unfulfilled and without value. Working and being appreciated for it builds contentment and gives strength to a happy home. Children must be taught by parental example to provide for themselves instead of lazily expecting others to supply their needs.

2. Budget

I Corinthians 6:12 says, "Everything is permissible for me" - but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible for me' - but I will not be mastered by anything." Here Paul points out a very important principle for successful living. Be in control.

Do you control your budget or does your budget control you? The average credit card debt in America is \$2500. Debt robs you of control. Live within your budget. Someone once said, "If you want out of debt, act your wage!"

Imagine what you could save if you were willing to sacrifice just a little and buy only the things that your family truly needed. Go to the

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4. The Money Menace



Look 
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closet and count the number of pairs of shoes your family owns. How many of them do they really need? Now count the number of outfits that haven't seen the light of day for the last two years. In spite of this virtual thrift shop of clothing within our very own home, we still buy hundreds of dollars worth of outfits at the beginning of each school year so that our children will fit in.

How many video games, televisions and VCR's does one family really need? We gripe about poor television content, yet we pay for cable, premium channels and satellite dishes to beam the material into our own homes with little to no restrictions. How many telephones, car phones, beepers, computers and internet hookups does it really take to be connected? We harp at our children because they spend too much time talking on the phone or surfing the net, yet we provide them with every new communication gadget we can find.

How many toys does one child really need? We complain about the avalanche that comes tumbling out of our child's closet every time we open the door, yet next Christmas we will again spend hundreds of dollars to surround the tree in expensive packages.

How many times do you eat out each week? What kind of exorbitant interest rates are you paying on those regular credit card purchases? What could you save if you eliminated one of the vehicles in the driveway along with its license, insurance and repair costs? Is your medium-sized house really necessary, or could a smaller one do? Is it really necessary to heat and cool the entire house even when people aren't in those rooms? Wouldn't water and juices be better for your family than sodas anyway? How many varieties of cereal are in your cupboard? How much do you spend each week to feed the pet? The list of money-saving suggestions really is endless. The question is, are you willing to make these small sacrifices to honor God and live within your budget?

Before leaving this subject, it should be noted that having a separate budget for the husband and another for the wife is asking for trouble. Creating a marriage that will survive in this world is hard enough without inviting Satan to separate you through jealous arguments over what belongs to whom. Be the "one flesh" that God has called you to become (Genesis 2:24). Use one budget and show your children what it means to be responsible.

3. Faith

In Matthew 6:25-34, God instructs His children not to worry about material things because He will provide what they need. In II Timothy 4:10, Paul said that his companion, Demas, had deserted the Lord's work because "he loved this world". Although money is a necessary part of a family's survival, it must not become its passion.

A "successful" young couple once explained their life-style this way, "In order to afford our new house and cars, we each had to take on extra jobs - so we don't have much time to spend with our kids - and we had to cut back on food and clothing. But, it's all worth it so long as we can provide a better quality of life!" I ask you, is this really the quality of life that you want?

One evening, several mischievous college students decided to pull a prank on a local department store. Late one evening they broke into the store, and for several hours went through all of the items exchanging price tags. Although they stole nothing during their evening's work, the results of their actions were even worse than if they had. As the doors were opened the next morning, shoppers rushed in and discovered the outrageous bargains. Bubble gum was priced at five-hundred dollars a pack, but fur coats were on sale for fifty cents. Doughnuts were marked at seven-hundred dollars each, but diamonds were on sale at a dollar a dozen. What a mess, and all because someone switched price tags.

Many years ago Satan broke into America's department store. After switching all of the price tags, Americans rushed in and accepted the changes offering little to no resistance. Job promotions were given a costly price while time with the family was made to look cheap. Two story homes were marked with high value, but two parent homes were tagged "out of season". "Quality time" was displayed as being "fashionable", but a "quantity of time" was marked as "unnecessary". On and on our values change until many Christians feel comfortable with their craving for material things, even though it often comes at the expense of their family. Satan has a way of convincing us that good is evil and evil is good. He loves to twist standards until he has made us see valuable things as cheap and cheap things as valuable. What a mess he has made of our world!

Too many Christian homes have bought into the devil's subtle tricks to exchange God-given values for those of a money-centered world. Many families today work two or more jobs, not because they have **too many needs** but because they have **too many wants**. A good friend once told me, "You are only as poor as your wants are many."

Too many of us have accepted Satan's value swapping scheme. Lucifer has made big salaries appear valuable and even necessary, but he has made time with the family appear cheap and even expendable. Don't mistake it for a minute. Satan is laughing at us just as hard as those mischievous college students must have laughed at the store owner who discovered the price tags were switched on all of his merchandise. We say, "God comes first." We sing "All to Jesus I surrender." We pray "Thy will be done." We quote "Seek ye first...", but do we really, sincerely mean it?

Nothing is more important than your family's spiritual well-being. Money is only a means to an end. Provide what you must. Budget what you have. Focus on Heaven.

-Parts of this article were taken from the book "Called To Be A Provider" by Sonny Childs

Look in the Book!

*Friends that study together,
spend eternity together!*

Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Matthew 6:25-34

I Timothy 5:8

1. How does a Christian decide when to resist the urge to worry as it says in Matthew, and when to act as it says in I Timothy?
2. Is money evil?
3. Why is money so divisive?
4. What are ten things you could live without? How much debt could you eliminate with this savings?

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Many other "Look in the Book" study guides are available to you on various subjects. They are great for personal study, Bible class material or for an open Bible study with a friend. They are also designed with an address space on the back to help you use them as a correspondence course with friends far away. To request your free Bible study guides please go to:

www.sonnychilds.com.

Giving The Blessing!

In ancient times, a blessing from ones parents was just as important as an inheritance. It often involved a meaningful touch, a period of meaningful talk and a wish for a meaningful tomorrow. Families today desperately need to return to this meaningful tradition.

1. Meaningful touch - Did you know that when newborns are held regularly they develop quicker and tend to be much healthier babies. Studies show that a healthy touch can lower blood pressure and even aid in healing. God designed us as social beings. We need physical interaction. As the internet, ATM machines and other impersonal devices become more popular, our hunger for personal touch will only increase. Your family needs the blessing. Hold them today.

2. Meaningful talk - Someone once said, "Talk is cheap." But, this is only true when talk is cheapened by a lack of reinforcing actions. Consider the following poem.

He whipped his boy for lying and his face was flaming red.
Of course there's no denying there was truth in what he said -
That a liar is always hated, but the little fellow knew,
That his father often stated many things that were untrue.

He caught the youngster cheating and sent him up to bed.
And, it's useless now repeating all the bitter things he said.
He talked of honor loudly as a lesson to be learned,
And forgot he's boasted proudly of the cunning tricks he's turned.

He heard the youngster swearing and he punished him again.
He'd have no boy so daring as to utter words profane.
Yet, the youngster could have told him (poor misguided little elf),
That it seemed unfair to scold him when he often cursed himself.

All in vain is splendid preaching, and the noble things we say,
All our talk is wasted teaching if we do not lead the way.
We will ne'er succeed reviewing all the sermons on the shelves,
To keep younger hands from doing what we often do ourselves.

Author unknown

3. Meaningful Tomorrow - Studies show that there is a growing cynicism among young people about the condition of the world when they become adults. The more attached we allow our children to become to the things of this dying world, the less hope they will find in tomorrow. The things of this world will rust, decay and die. Like drinking saltwater when thirsty, the things of this world only produce more cravings and little satisfaction. Only by helping them learn to be content in whatever state they find themselves, and by teaching them to lay up treasures in heaven, can we help them find any real hope and emotional peace for today and for tomorrow.

Want more?

To receive the next lesson, return this study guide and your comments to the address given in the box below. Areas for further study will be noted and this guide will be returned to you along with the next lesson in the series.

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- LITB007.2 - Take Time Dad
- LITB007.3 - Take Time Mom
- LITB007.4 - The Money Menace
- LITB007.5 - Giving The Blessing



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5. Giving The Blessing



Look 
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Bible Studies by Sonny Childs
(References are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated.)

Five Are Dead! How Could It happen?

While hiding in the woods, two young boys opened fire on a playground full of children. Five died, including one school teacher who was shot while shielding one of her students. She was pregnant. She was your sister in Christ.

I was holding a meeting in Hoxie, Arkansas, on the day this horrible tragedy took place. Hoxie is less than thirty minutes away from Jonesboro, Arkansas, where the slaughter had occurred. It seemed that everyone in the congregation was personally effected in some way by the event. As I was introduced that evening, I felt a huge burden to use my lesson to bring about some application from this tragedy. The following is some of what was said.

"Many tonight are looking for answers. Some of us will blame the media for popularizing violence without consequences. Others will blame this crime on the availability of guns. Still others will blame God. We live in a world that readily passes the blame on to others and rarely accepts the blame for itself. Please be reminded that a TV cannot present violent material without a person to turn on the set. A gun cannot be fired without a person to pull the trigger. And God cannot be responsible for something we have chosen to bring upon ourselves. To solve America's problems, we must begin by taking responsibility for our actions. We must start in the home. We have little control over the actions of others. But we can control ourselves and the actions of our children. Too many of us are neglecting our parental responsibilities!"

Are you aware that the average child in America today spends more of their waking hours

in an institution than they do with their own parents? Consider an average day in the life of your own child. Awakened before sunrise, they are then rushed off to school or daycare to spend the majority of their waking hours under the influence of relative strangers. Although many of these adults are wonderful people who would never intentionally do anything to harm our children, harm often comes.

1. When we as parents are absent, our children are harmed by lack of individual nurturing. Personal needs cannot be adequately met in a classroom full of children who are all competing for the same person's attention. This competition promotes frustration and it often leads to strife among students.

2. When we as parents are absent, the impressionable minds of our children are harmed by peer pressure from other youngsters who have a less than desirable value system.

3. When we as parents are absent, our children are harmed by an agenda or curriculum that is often designed to promote competition and materialism rather than compassion and faith in God.

4. When we as parents are absent, our children are harmed by our absence. Life is the greatest school room of all. No one can teach a child better than a loving parent. **Did you know that public school teachers comprise one of the largest groups of professional people who are now choosing to homeschool their own children?** These experts know that children suffer when they are removed from the instruction of their own parents. Children naturally seek out role models. If the parents will not accept this responsibility, then other less desirable role models are often selected. Who is the primary role model for your child?

I'm told that on the day of the terrible shooting mentioned above, a parent heard about the tragedy and rushed to the school to make sure his child was not among the injured. When he arrived, he learned that his child had not been hurt, but was instead being held for murder. How well do you know your child?

Giving The ^{Greatest!} Blessing

It is estimated that 45% of high school seniors leave Christ upon graduation. To change this awful trend parents must help their children find the greatest blessing of all - their own personal relationship with Christ. Young people must see that Christianity is more than just a performance. Parents must show their children that Christianity is not so much what you do but who you are. It is a way of life 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Be passionate about your walk with Christ and your children are much more likely to follow in your steps.

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Read the scripture(s) and answer the questions below. Feel free to write your answers on another piece of paper and enclose it within this study guide.

Genesis 48:10-16

1. What type of healthy touches were given to Ephraim and Manasseh in verses 10 through 12? How much of this is done in your home?

2. In verse 15 and the first part of 16, what power does Isaac call upon for the blessing? Why is that significant?

3. What steps can parents take to ensure a meaningful tomorrow for themselves and their children?

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