

PARENTING with a WISE HEART

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Introduction ~ Fill-in-the-Blanks

1. Study Goals for Parenting With God's Heart	
Paul understood that God wanted him "To to those God has chose truth that shows them how to live godly lives" (Titus 1:1 NLT)	
2. Bible Versions If you have web access, you can find versions of the	Bible at www.biblegateway.com
3. The Book's Formata. Scripture Memory ~ Sign and date below if you are	Scripture Memory As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him. Ps. 103.13 (MSG)
going to memorize each lesson's Scripture Memory. (Sign Your Name Here)	(Date Here)
b. Tidbit ~ These aren't from scripture but they speak volumes of truth.	Tidbit "Parents can only give good advice or put a child on the right path but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands" 1
c. 'Key Scripture,' write it in the margin or put it on an index. Writing each day's verse out by hand will help you (Psalms 119.9-11). You will then be able to help your own flashcards so that they are able to study effectively.	God's Word in your heart children learn how to create their

d. Character Sketch ~ Most people, especially young children, strive to become who others them to be. Character Sketches are going to be a regular part of each lesson to help you think about the values you want to build into your family.

CHARACTER SKETCH EXAMPLE: PERSEVERANCE

Jesus' brother wrote a letter that is in the New Testament. It is named after him and is called James. In the first chapter, James makes a strong point about purpose of the trials we face. "...the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:4).

Perseverance is a quality that all people need at different times in their lives. It takes perseverance, endurance and dedication to stay committed to tough tasks. Raising kids is difficult. It is not only demanding; some years it seems to take forever to see any results.

While driving one day, I heard the guest speaker on a radio program make a statement I'm going to put into my own words. "The ONLY time we fail our children is when we let the enemy convince us that it is not worth praying for them." I discovered, with the help of the above statement a bigger issue is at the heart of this matter.

Good parenting involves continually choosing to be persistent in all areas of life. The Greek word *hypomone* means cheerful endurance and patient waiting.² Hopeful endurance by parents is demonstrated by their answer to the question, "Are you going to do what it takes?" Are you going to do what it takes to listen? Are you going to do what it takes to discipline wisely? Are you going to do what it takes to control your tongue? Are you going to do what it takes to get back up, apologize and try again when you fail? "Are you going to do what it takes?" is a tough question for everyone.

All parents need a "one-liner" arsenal. This is a collection of saying parents want in their children's memory. The question, "Are you going to do what it takes?" is a good start to that collection. The "one-liner" arsenal helps parents put their voice, their cautions, and their reminders of right and wrong inside the hearts of their children With God's assistance and parental perseverance, parents will be able to help their children reach the goal of being mature responsible adults who know what it takes to inherit eternal life.³

	by the things your family does Each chapter's "Table Talk" is a
	where you guide the family through a lesson or activity that is centered on
	growing closer to God and each other.
f.	Parenting Tip ~ These gems are advice worth trying right away.
g.	FYI ~ The question will usually refer to some part of a covered in the chapter.
h.	Chapter Exploration ~ This section contains the Bible study questions. The questions with will be discussed with other parents during class time.
i.	I Am Going To Wonder and Pray About Author, Eugene Peterson, mentions that we seldom give our children or ourselves time to wonder. This "Wonder and Pray" space is provided for your ideas about the information, values, and skills you plan to build into your children's lives. It is that you bring to God what you don't know or are unsure about.

j. Resource Section ~ Reading

"Book-of-the-Month" Mom - Recommends: The goal of this segment is to give you a list of other parenting books that contain exceptionally beneficial information.
Favorite Children's books "" is a term early childhood educators use to label the daily connection researchers report that all infants, toddlers, and pre-school age children need with their parents to be emotionally ready for school. Becoming "
4. Preparation for the Arrival of Creation
God planned, prepared and anticipated what would be needed to the humans He was going to place on the earth.
5. God's Desire for the Family Unit
The first organization that God created — the family— "is better at Christian than any other mission group in the world." ³
6. Infected By Sin ~ Goodwill toward Men
Adam and Eve didn't understand that God's commands are to His children, not to keep something good from them. When Adam and Eve disobeyed, ALL of mankind suffered the consequences of being with the to sin.
Being compassionate, God worried about the eternal consequences of their sin. If Adam and Eve continued eating fruit of the tree of life — that allowed people to live forever — they would live with the pain and of sin.
God wants humans to have on earth and know He still has toward men (Luke 2.14 NKJV).

Chapter One ~ Session Notes

An Accurate and Effective Worldview

1.	1. Parenting is about being That	means not only knowing what to do
	but also, how to do it, calculat	
	to accomplish your goals. Your "" is w	
	world works.	
)	2. A godly, accurate personal worldview will help you	, battle the media and Hollywood'
۷.	, as they tempt you and	·
	others and in ourselves, there is a between	
	worldview Christians use to explain life here on earth.	0 1
	1	
,	2. I :-in-la-C-P Dill	:111: V
).	3. Living by God's means you have a Bibli worldview and how to please Him will help y	
		as put in place. God's Word, His laws
	His decrees, His principles, and His parenting style are the	
	The decrees, The principles, and The parenting of the are	
,	(O I C I: DICH I II	TT 1
1 .	4. Only God is so BIG He can do as He	. He gave humans a that
	will live forever. Where your soul spends is in your hands, just as your children's souls will eventuall	
	10 111 7 CG1 11G11G01 1G01 G0 7 CG1 C111G1C110 0CG10 WIII CYCIILGGI	.,

5.	What God allows does not always please His followers. Sometimes we do not like what happens here on earth, so we God for the things that are bad. It is God's pleasure to be
6.	God's all-powerful and reliable authority means He knows what is best. We humans are indeed blessed that God wants an relationship with each of us. He
	is willing to share His, desires and expectations with us. He provided His Word, the Bible, so that we are not left in the dark around or wondering what to do.
7.	Even before they can comprehend what a worldview is, the children following you will experience the of it. Everyone must submit to governing authorities. As a parent, you are the governing in your children's lives.
8.	God's given you a sacred trust! He wants you to succeed and is more than willing to help. He likes those who ask questions, seek His counsel and His Word for the answers.

Chapter Two ~ Session Notes

Hannah, Eli and Samuel's Parenting Style

1. This story is about parents and their influence on their children.

	• and	are	introdu	ced at	the	begini	ning of
	First Samuel.						C
	• Eli,	of	Israel,	has t	wo s	sons	named
	and						
	 Hannah and Elkanah's son is 						
2.	Hannah and her husband Elkanah den						_ for
	and to the LORD w	vith ever	y choice	they m	ake.		
3.	Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, had						D. God's
	Word says Eli even what his so	ons were d	loing. (1 Sa	ımuel 2.2	23-25)		
í.	However, as an			,	Eli dic	l not d	o what it
	takes to put in place the consequences he l		-		-		
	disqualified and then	from	the priest	hood			

5.	Samuel, like Eli, was judge and priest. He had wonderful loving parents, but his parenting was Eli. When parents excuse, overlook, or even address but				
	don't discipline bad behavior they God.				
6.	Sin separates humans from God, it also has the built in consequence of making Him God explains that this is because the built-in consequence of sin will affect a family for three or four to come.				
7.	Romans 8.6-8 in The Message says, "Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't at being ignored" (Romans 8.6-8).				
8.	As parents obey God's laws, commands, principles and statutes it will be easier for them to unhealthy behaviors.				
9.	" [I, God, show] to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."				

Chapter Three ~ Session Notes

The Spiritual Leader's Responsibilities

1.	Consecrate Yourselves ~ Lev. 20.7 ~ "Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God.
	Ways to begin consecrating yourself. A to or read God's Word B makes it possible to communicate with God ALL day. C when you sin. This keeps your relationship pure, free of dirt, and your access to God open. D. Finally, as the Holy Spirit purifies your heart and helps you do things that please God, you will begin to spiritually '' Him.
2.	Guard the Temple ~ Num. 18.5 ~ "You are to be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and the altar, so that wrath will not fall on the Israelites again. Bevere states that guarding the temple has two universal principles: A keeps the temple's door/gate shut, denying Satan legal access. B. Disobedience throws the door wide open, giving him1
3.	Tend the Fire ~ Lev. 6.12-13 ~ The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. As the family's priests stoke and share the fire within their hearts, their children—believers or not —will become more aware of God's in their lives.

4.	leach the Word of God ~ Deut. 1/.11 ~ Act according to the law they teach you (NIV).				
	It is impossible to teach what you don't know and it is difficult to lead if you are not God's directions.				
	Consistently enforced rules help children grasp that love comes with				
5.	Separate them from unclean things ~ Lev. 15.31 ~ ""You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling My dwelling place, which is among them."				
	Parents still need to decide when a condition needs medical attention. Most importantly, parents need to help their children keep their hearts—God's place—free of dirt.				
	David, described as 'a man after God's heart,' wrote, "I will set before my eyes no thing" (Psalms 101.3). Only God can make us than we really are.				
6.	Judge the Unruly ~ Deut. 17.9 ~ Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict.				
	"At that time I (Moses) instructed the judges, 'You must hear the cases of your fellow Israelites (

7.	Pray for Army going into Battle ~ Deut. 20.2 ~ When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. He shall say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. For the LORD your God is the One who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."					
	Prayer is your commitment to the life of your children.					
	First Samuel 12.23 says: "As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right" (NIV). The only time you fail your children is when you praying for them. God loves and cares more deeply for your children than you do!					
8.	Bless the people ~ Num. 6.23-27 This ancient blessing is a model of how the spiritual leaders were to ask God's divine favor on others. Its five parts conveyed the request that God would:					
	(1) Bless and them; (2) on them (be pleased);					
	 (3) be gracious (merciful and compassionate); (4) show His favor toward them (give His					
	When you ask God to bless others or yourself, you are asking Him to do these five things. As your family's priest, think about the merits of blessing your family. When you ask God to bless your family members, remember that praying God's blessings benefits you all.					
	"Tell this is how you are to bless the People of					
	the family. Say to them, GOD bless you and (Your family name)					
	keep you, GOD smile on you and gift you, GOD look you full in the					
	face and make you prosper.					
	In so doing, will place my name on the					
	people of the family—I will confirm it by blessing them."					

Chapter Four ~ Session Notes

Touching Your Dreams and Your Children's

(Life-Long Learning Grid is an additional handout for Chapter Four)

1.	God never gives up on you or your children. That means He never gives up on the He's given to you either.
2.	God desires the image of Christ to be to the world through you.
	Romans 8.29 reveals His plan, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" (NIV).
3.	God is looking for lifelong learners. An is short for Individualized Education Plan has an IEP for you. It is necessary because doesn't happen by accident.
4.	"Dreams that catch our imagination and inspire our wills begin in the mind of God." 1
	God Gives Us Dreams A Size So That We Can Grow Into Them.
5.	Your dream will change you. God has made your children and you with specific and inabilities. When family members share their
	dreams with each other, they will find that they are creating bonds and that become the core of who their family is.

6.	The da	ream alters your schedule	2.		
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-		on. (Like the Energizer Bunny)
					s, "I know the plans I have for
					the right time and right place. ²
	Mappi	ing out what you think a	re the next steps is		for, "If you don't know where
	you are	e going, any road will get	you there."3		
	•		•		
7.	This a	cronym is a "SMART" r	eminder that goals nee	ed to be:	
		0			
		<u>S</u> =			
		<u>M</u> =			
		<u>A</u> =			
		<u>R</u> =			
		<u>T</u> =			
Ge Fo	about guides ditch" based, et the hallow the	those who lead when the leading the blind, and (Matthew 15.14 NLT). His desire is that you andouts from www.mar edirections for filling it of during this session. It	ey are not helping other of the second of th	ners grow. " n guides anowith God is _ the brings love a citled: <i>Life-lor</i> ia and Study	Matthew reports Jesus' comments. Ignore them. They are blind ther, they will both fall into a performance and life to you and others. Ing Learning Goal-setting Grid. guide. (This does not need to be be brough all the part involved in
	0	,			
9.		of Stunted	Growth:		
	a.	It seemed to you as a y	oungster that withou	t plan or	you just grew up.
	b.	Not understanding	-		steps include having your who you are.
	с.			ınd	are characteristics of
		growing-up that isn't v	et complete.		

d.	Pain causes everyone to be cautious.				
	Successful people look at as an opportunity to grow. Those that run				
	away develop the of leaving instead of learning and maturing.				
e.	They have not learned that"Satan hopes we will take the bait of so that				
	he will have a foothold into our lives to destroy both our relationship with God and our relationship with others." 4				
f.	Fear causes a whole list of that will prevent growth in your life.				
	Learning to handle fear usually means dealing with being It				
	frequently means taking risks that for the moment leave the future uncertain. The				
	goal for managing change (fear) is to do it with thoughtful risk taking th				
	beneficial and will produce further opportunities for growth% of all				
	senior citizens wish they had taken more risks.				
g.	. Motivation and the first risk taking are steps that get you started				
8	is what makes it happen.				
h.	Discipline is about getting yourself to things you don't want to When				
	you do that God receives the glory.				
	Because you cannot have peace without God, a big portion of experiencing peace				
	with Him involves, "Disciplining what is a n d				
	within ourselves."5				
	within ourserves.				
10. The G	God of the is on your side.				
There	is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD (Proverbs 21.30 NIV).				
Go for	r God's best in your life!				
Go fo	r the dreams He's planted in your heart and help your children do the same!				
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Chapter Five ~ Session Notes

Communication Practice

The SEE and HEAR pie-pieces on the "I" Language Chart are pulled out because in the United States of America, those are the only two statements that will hold up in court. Therefore, they are the strongest and best to use first.

SCENARIO #1 ~ SLIDES 12 - 19

Directions: Show slides 12 through 15, then have the class brainstorm on the lines below what they would say in this situation. After the class discusses their various responses, show slides 17-19.

As a teen gets out of the car at school his mom asks him to come right home to help with some yard work. There are two problems. First, there isn't much time to talk about it.

Second, the teen and his friend have plans to stay after school to watch a ball game.

This teenager needs to be respectful, and he hasn't told his mom about the promise he made to join his friend at the ball game.

His first priority is to help his mom quickly understand his desire to respect her and his willingness to be obedient. His second priority is to teach her about his plans, and offer to cooperate, possibly on a different day.

Which "I" message starter should he use to explain his concerns to his mom?

(It might be wise to apologize for not telling his mom his plans.)

Write what you would say below:

SCENARIO #2 ~ SLIDES 20 - 26

Directions: Show slides 20 through 23, then have the class brainstorm what they would say in this situation. After the class discusses their various responses, show slides 24-26.

You are tired and not feeling well. Your four-year-old keeps pounding on the door wanting you to play with him.

Which "I" message starter should this parent use to explain the problem to her child?				
What reasons might this little boy have for pounding on the door?				
Write what you would say below:				

SCENARIO #3 ~ SLIDES 27 - 34

Directions: Show slides 27 through 30, then have the class brainstorm what they would say in this situation. After the class discusses their various responses, show slides 31-34.

A friend asked you to babysit her out-of-control children. You know that when they have

previously been in your care it has been nearly impossible to keep them safe because they don't listen to you. Which "I" message starter would you use to explain this problem to your friend? It may be best to give yourself some time to pray and really think about what to say before responding to your friend's request. It's always wise to check your calendar before setting a date so you might want to say: "I need to check my calendar, can I get back to you tomorrow?" Write what you would say below:

SCENARIO #4 ~ SLIDES 35 - 40

Directions: Show slides 35 through 37, then have the class brainstorm what they would say in this situation. After the class discusses their various responses, show slides 38-40.

Your boyfriend wants you to come away for a weekend with him. He thinks it's okay to lie to your parents about where you will be and what you will be doing.

Write what you would say below:				

Chapter Six ~ Session Notes

Gifts To Give Your Family

1.	Developing Godly Self-Images
	- Parents need to continually God's messages. Constantly reminding their children "You are loved by God and me."
	- You and others are to be treated with respect and dignity because all people are created in
	God has placed you in my safekeeping. He expects me to teach you the difference between and
	- God knows with His wisdom, strength and support — you can life.
2.	Dignity and Respect for Everyone
	- To develop self-respect kids need to respect from those they love most.
	- Children need to feel they are becoming at solving their own problems.
	- This family and each person for who he is. (Even if
	that person is different from us or is hard to understand.) They understand that ridicule,
	embarrassment and being or around are not
	respectful parenting tactics. (Treat and speak your children as you want them to treat you
	when they are taking care of you.)
	- To reduce stress, the family's goal is that everyone has a
	Negative stress often adds to physical and emotional
	problems — it takes for a person's body to recover from negative
	and hostile emotions.
3.	Being Christian Gives Life Meaning
	- Children of divorce are two times more likely to become a criminal so teaching sexual
	is good for the whole country.
	- 100% of death row inmate saw or experienced
	- Christian families that value service to others develop a sense of and learn that
	there is satisfaction in a job well done that is separate from financial gain.

4. Family Togetherness

5.

- Spouses	each other and there is a balance of	of
between them.		
- Everyone provided with an opp	portunity to share what happened to	me
	nd symptoms of relational	
	al communication. Examples like: "nol	
shrugged shoulders, rolled eyes, a	and slammed doors.	
- After a conflict the noticeable p	pattern of re-connection in Christian	families involves
forgiveness and	•	
	parents plan a family meal together da	aily. They also have parenta
controls and guidelines in place of	concerning	·
- Establishes lots of	(Where spend Christmas,	where do you put the
	open presents). To children, do it on	
that way from then on.		
- Sense of history and	Children and grandchildren need to	o know they belong,
family stories make connection	s between generations.	
- Enjoys leisure, enjoys fun toget	ther & has a sense of	<u></u> .
 Uses humor positively Not-ma 	licious teasing, or_	·
Critically Important Health Habits		
Healthy Eating		
is for l	oodies what oil is for a car.	
	r and salt filled snacks as only an	treat,
	ek rather than as a bribe for good be	
• Overall Health		
- Germs are everywhere! The bes	et defense against them is to	your hands.
• Teeth Are For A Lifetime		
- The first rule about baby teeth	is to the	m. Those little teeth help
shape children's mouthes and h	telp them learn to talk.	
• Sleep		
- Children who get enough rest	have fewer	problems and their
system	n functions better enabling their bod	
infections.		

• Exercise	
 Human bodies were created for body which helps it grow and stay healthy. 	Movement brings oxygen into the
- Getting everyone in the family out for some together while demonstrating the importance of c	
children run the increased diabetes arthritis, cancer, and heart disease which	2 0 ,
• Safety gear	
- Car accidents are a major cause of the loss of life. Car se	ats,, and
6. Healthy Families Admit Their Problems & Seeks Help	
- There is no shame in asking for help will help you get through times of trouble.	on your family's strengths
Check out page 213 — theespecially stressful.)	is for days when parenting is