

# PARENTING with a WISE HEART

Barbara J. Mandley

PARENTING with a WISE HEART

#### Parenting with a Wise Heart (Media & Study Guide)

by BarBara J. Mandley © 2013 by Mandley Consulting Inc.

Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals involved in the stories or scenarios. All other stories are composites of the lives of real people and any similarities to people you may know are purely coincidental.

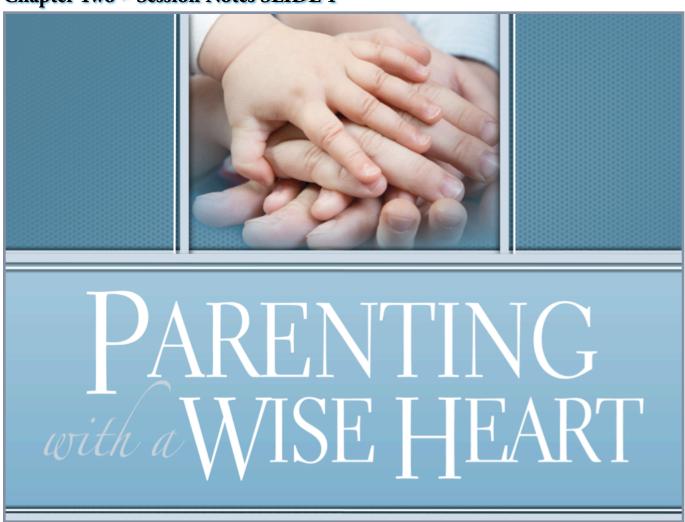
The author shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to loss, damage, or injury caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in this book. The information presented herein is in no way intended as a substitute for counseling and other forms of professional guidance.

For more information, visit: www.mandley.com/Barb/pwh

Cover Design: Cari Campbell Design

### Hannah, Eli and Samuel's Parenting Style

#### Chapter Two ~ Session Notes SLIDE 1



Title slide

#### SLIDE 2



## Parenting Style Chapter 2

Copyright © 2014 MandleyConsulting Inc.

Session slide ~ PRAY... then proceed

#### **SLIDES 3-9**



1. <u>ELKANAH</u> and <u>HANNAH</u> are introduced at the beginning of First Samuel.

Eli, <u>THE HIGH PRIEST</u> of Israel, is the next to appear, he has two sons named <u>HOPHNI</u> and <u>PHINEHAS</u>.

Hannah and Elkanah's son is **SAMUEL**.

Copyright © 2014 MandleyConsulting Inc

#### Answer#1.

#### Parents influence their children.

This Biblical account is about parents and their influence on their children.

- **ELKANAH** and **HANNAH** are introduced at the beginning of First Samuel.
- Eli, **THE HIGH PRIEST** of Israel, is the next to appear, he has two sons named **HOPHNI** and **PHINEHAS**. Israel has no king at that point in time, so Eli is also Israel's judge.
- Hannah and Elkanah's son is **SAMUEL**

#### **SLIDES 10-16**



- 2. Hannah and her husband Elkanah demonstrate their *LOVE* for and *OBEDIENCE* to the LORD with every choice they make.
- Hophni and Phinehas, Eli's sons, had <u>NO REGARD</u> for the LORD.

God's Word says Eli <u>KNEW</u> what his son were doing. (1 Samuel 2.23-25)

#### Answers #2. & 3

Hannah and her husband Elkanah demonstrate their **LOVE** for and **OBEDIENCE** to the LORD with every choice they make. Year after year they take the journey and follow the regulations for offering sacrifices.

Even when Elkanah's first wife upsets her, Hannah does not withdraw from God. She does not blame Him for her barrenness but she reminds Him only He enables human bodies to become pregnant. She asks for a child, in return she promises God she will dedicate and then give the child to Him for his entire life.

Eli saw Hannah's lips moving in prayer and thought she was drunk. She answered his challenge by telling him she was praying. As a result of their conversation Eli said to her, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of Him" (1 Samuel 1.1-17).

#### Media & Study Guide

Hannah becomes pregnant. Her delight in God's answer to her prayer, is evident for she names her son Samuel, which sounds like Hebrew for "Heard of God." Elkanah agrees with Hannah's decision to stay home from the annual sacrifice and he prays that the Lord will give her strength to keep her promise.

Once Samuel was weaned (in that culture between 2 and 3 years-old) Elkanah & Hannah take a bull in honor of their great sacrifice to the tabernacle in Shiloh. After they presented their offering to God, they give Samuel to Eli (1 Samuel 1.18-28).

(There is a similar custom in Africa—If you greatly admire a wise and influential person you ask them to parent one of your children. Your desire is to have your child raised to adulthood under the authority, guidance and influence of that highly regarded individual.)

After Hannah and Elkanah put their son in Eli's keeping they worship together. Imagine standing before God, empty—without a child in their arms—Again!

Scripture then records the beautiful prayer that Hannah prayed (First Samuel 2.1-10). Many believe that Jesus' mother, Mary used Hannah's prayer as a model for her own praises shortly after the angel Gabriel announced she was going to become pregnant. (Luke 1.46-55).

Leaving Samuel, Hannah and Elkanah go back home to Ramah seeing their son only once a year when they come for the sacrifice. Young Samuel begins serving the Lord by assisting Eli (1 Samuel 2.11). Imagine, how difficult it was to leave their little guy in a far away city with someone else. However, God is faithful, Eli's prayers for Hannah are answered again for she bears 3 more sons and 2 daughters.

Even while they are preparing to leave Samuel with Eli, there is trouble brewing. It's likely that Elkanah and Hannah knew that Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas had **NO REGARD** for the LORD. Hophni and Phinehas' lack of regard for the LORD was evident by the contempt they showed for the sacrificial offerings the LORD's people brought to the temple. In Leviticus 22.2 (NIV-G/K) the regulations are explained: "Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings the Israelites consecrate to me, so they will not profane my holy name. I am the LORD.

Hophni and Phinehas were also sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of the Meeting (The Tabernacle of the LORD). Because Eli's sons are so wicked I believe Elkanah and Hannah's decision to keep their vow, leaving Samuel with Eli, demonstrates an incredible trust in God and the belief God does His best for His children in spite of circumstances.

God's Word says Eli even KNEW what his sons were doing. Because Eli knew, it's also likely that Elkanah and Hannah were aware of what Elli's sons were doing also. Eli did confronted his sons by speaking warnings and truth. "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people. If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" (1 Samuel 2.23-25)

#### **SLIDES 17-20**



4. However as an <u>OVERLOOKING PARENT</u>, Eli did not do what it takes to put in place the consequences he had the right to enforce.

Hophni and Phinehas should have been disqualified and then <u>REMOVED</u> from the priesthood.

#### Answer #4.

However, as an **OVERLOOKING PARENT**, Eli did not do what it takes to put in place the consequences he had the right to enforce. Hophni and Phinehas' shameful actions demonstrated the condition of their hard hearts. They viewed their ministerial positions as entitlements that allowed them to take advantage of others and a way to have sex with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

Hophni and Phinehas should have been disqualified and then **REMOVED** from the priesthood. Please read 1 Samuel 2.29-34 below before discussing the two devastating consequences of Eli's lack of disciplinary action.

Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?'

"Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will

#### Media & Study Guide

honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man. Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

"And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you — they will both die on the same day.

Eli surrendered his spiritual authority to his children who abused it. The Ark of the Covenant which held the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff that had budded and a jar of manna were put at risk. Hophni and Phinehas went into the Israelite camp with the Ark of the Covenant of God. As the Israelite soldiers were being defeated, they ran to their tents, and the Ark of the Covenant was captured. As God predicted, Hophni and Phinehas died on the same day. When Eli heard of the Ark's capture he fell from his seat near the city gate and broke his neck, also dying the same day as his sons.

God regarded Himself scorned and despised because of Eli's failure to remove 'his boys' from their ministry positions. In 1 Samuel 4.18 we learn that Eli was an old man and heavy. Imagine his thoughts when the man of God came to him prior to his death and said, "...Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by *fattening yourselves* on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?" (1 Samuel 2.29) Even the size of Eli's body and his eating choices were evidence of his and his children's sin (*emphasis mine*).

God held a great portion of Hophni's and Phinehas' sin against Eli. (Leadership positions carry heavy responsibilities. His visibility as Israel's Priest and Judge meant his example was one all in Israel were watching.) All the male descendants in Eli's family would die in the prime of their life. If any actually became a priest they would always be sad. God's Word says, "their eyes would be blinded by tears and their hearts would be grieved" (1Samuel 2.30-34).

#### **SLIDES 21-24**



5. Samuel, like Eli, was judge and priest. He had wonderful loving parents, but his parenting <u>ROLE MODEL</u> was Eli.

When parents excuse, overlook, or even address but don't discipline bad behavior they <u>DISPLEASE</u> God.

#### Answer #5.

Like Eli, Samuel (Hannah and Elkanah's son) was judge and priest. He had wonderful loving parents, but his parenting ROLE MODEL was Eli. Samuel's sons Joel and Abijah had hearts that were not committed to the LORD. They sought dishonest gain, accepted bribes and perverted justice. Samuel chose not to make the mistake he saw Eli make. Instead of appointing them to be priests, Samuel separated them from ministry and appointed them only as judges for Israel. Samuel relationship with God remained strong. His son's did not remain strong for the LORD, but his future descendants were not harmed by his choices. Joshua, son of Nun, of the battle of Jericho is from his family line.

Obedience to God's laws, commands, principles and statutes is how God knows He is loved. When parents excuse, overlook, or even address but don't discipline bad behavior they **DISPLEASE** God. Though it is difficult to accept, what we don't know, don't do, or don't discipline can definitely hurt our children and

#### Media & Study Guide

their children for generations to come. God uses the phrase, "My commands" twenty-three different times in the Bible so that we can learn about His view of people who follow His commands. Those verses also inform readers about the blessings and curses of obedience and disobedience.

From many verses in the Bible, readers learn that God is totally holy (Leviticus 11.44-45 and 1 Peter 1.16). When God calls Himself holy He means He cannot look on or tolerate sin. In Romans 3.23 Bible readers are reminded that everyone is a sinner. Sin happens when we don't obey God's laws. However, those in a right relationship with God continually seek and receive His forgiveness of their sins through His Son Jesus. With the help of God's Spirit believers are always working on keeping their hearts pure. They really want God to direct their steps. God calls them His children and says because of Jesus' death on the cross they are righteous and blameless.

#### **SLIDES 25-28**



Sin separates humans from God, it also causes Him to become <u>ANGRY</u>.

God explains that this is because the built-in consequence of sin will affect a family for three or four <u>GENERATIONS</u> to come.

#### Answer #6.

<u>Sin separates humans from God, it also causes Him to become ANGRY</u>. A portion of His anger comes from knowing those He loves—and probably others—are going to experience hurt and pain because of sins they have committed. The larger part of God's pain comes from knowing our sin reveals our unfaithfulness to Him. God knows when we choose to sin we are saying to Him that there is a rival that is more important than He is. He isn't the priority or center of our lives.

When humans think there is a rival for their love, they become jealous. God's feelings are exactly the same. He longs for the love of those He created and He constantly reminds people that obedience is for Him the megaphone of love. "Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning" (2 John 1.6 NLT).

#### MEDIA & STUDY GUIDE

God knows iniquities, another word for sin, have consequences that hurt those following. He states, "I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exodus 20.5 KJV). God explains that this is because the built-in consequence of sin will affect a family for three or four **GENERATIONS** to come.

The punishment for the sin that is passed from one generation to another is built into the sin itself. "Virtually all of us have some generational ruins that only can be rebuilt in Christ, but we could easily be consciously unaware of them. In my opinion, a crucial reason exists for facing generational strongholds head-on: unless we purposely seek them, they can remain almost unrecognizable."

God knows those in the next generation will have to purposefully obey His commands to be free from the sinful behavior they learned as children. When no one in the family has the starting point of knowing about or believing in Him, or they are coming from a family that doesn't follow or has drifted from God's commands, it is difficult to understand the importance of obedience to Him.

Below is the story about a father that saw the results of a family sin that was at least two generations deep, heading for three. The man had a five or six year old son. He and his wife were in the middle of a season filled with all kinds of conflict with each other. Pastoral mentoring and counseling encouraged this couple to stay in the same room. They were also told to stop yelling, carefully consider what the other is going to hear, face each other and cautiously choose their words. They began to take the risk of talking through their problems. This was especially hard for the young man because he was generally the one who stormed out of their home in frustration when a conflict arose.

During one argument, because the husband/father did not storm out of the room, he noticed their apparently distressed son scurrying past he and his wife. The young dad took a moment to find out what was bothering his son. He found the little fellow rolled up in a ball, hiding under his bed.

He was hit by a flood of memories that involved hiding under his own bed in that same position. He realized that he knew exactly how the boy felt. He used to try to escape the noise and angry voices of his parents' disagreements by hiding under his bed. He also remembered the feeling of having no control over his life or the situation when he heard the door slam as his father left their home.

This young father and his father were uncomfortable facing conflict. Their comfort was more important to them than restoring the relationships that were threatened by disagreement. In essence they were worshiping their own feelings more than doing what was right in God's sight. This young husband and his son needed to learn they were being courageous when they stayed to face a conflict. Being willing to be uncomfortable while resolving conflicts demonstrates to both parties in a relationship that the tie or connection between them is important. It's the same with God. Angry with Him? It's important to let Him know, then continue reading His Word until the conflict between you is resolved.

God's desires for us include relationships that are healthy and bring us joy. What probably began as a means of escape for the father when he was a little boy became a major stumbling block to a healthy adult relationship with his own wife and child. What he hadn't seen or understood was hurting his family.

#### **SLIDES 29-32**



7. "Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end;

ATTENTION 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 IGNORES God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't PLEASED at being ignored."

(Romans 8.6-8)

#### Answer #7.

These verses cuts to the heart of us humans who so easily focus on ourselves. They says, "Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; **ATTENTION** 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 **IGNORES** God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't **PLEASED** at being ignored" (Romans 8.6-8 MSG).

In the story above, the sins of the grandfather were visited upon his son, and that son had already begun the process of teaching the same sinful behavior to his son. If he didn't change his self-focused ways and teach his child how to resolve conflict his iniquities were going to be visited upon his son.

**SUMMARY** ~ God deeply desires that parents teach their children that there are great blessings in following God's message and His instructions. You are the leaders in your home. It is critically important you model following God. 2013 © Mandley Consulting Inc.

Page 54

Chapter Two

#### **SLIDES 33-36**



- 8. As parents obey God's laws, commands, principles and statutes it will be easier for them to <u>DETECT</u> unhealthy behaviors.
- 9. "...[I, God show] <u>LOVE</u> to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."

#### Answer #8 & 9.

As parents intentionally obey God's laws, commands, principles and statutes it will be easier for them to **DETECT** unhealthy behaviors (the kinds of behaviors parents don't realize they are passing along or have not previously spotted). God knows that worshiping an idol (anything that pulls our hearts away from Him) or our own self comfort is sin. He also knows how much He loves us. I believe parents do not want their iniquities to follow their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren into future generations. The verse below is wonderfully encouraging.

This point, made by Beth Moore is uplifting, "When a parent practices sin and rebellion against God, adversely affected children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren share some of the same tendencies. But

sin and rebellion are not the only heritage passed down to future generations! Faithfulness has an ever greater influence!" As we read further in Exodus 20, we are encouraged by verse six. "...

[I, God, show] **LOVE** to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments." Your obedience pleases God and blesses those following you for a long, long time.

#### Prayer:

#### Dear Holy Father,

When we look up at the stars in the sky or down into the intricate center of any flower we are amazed and overwhelmed by the realization of ALL You've done to provide and take care of us. Thank You for allowing us to see Your order, Your plans, and Your example as our model for parenting. Thank You for helping us see all the ways our culture wants to steal from us the responsibility and awareness of what it means to be Your children. Thank You for sealing within our hearts the wisdom and power that comes with having a view of the world that centers on YOU. Thank You for helping us parents strive to use the training mode of operation to transmit Your worldview to our children and everyone else in our world too. Holy is Your name—AMEN

#### Media & Study Guide Chapter Two's Endnotes

- 1. Beth Moore, Breaking Free (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press (Living Proof Ministries), 1999), 73.
- 2. Beth Moore, To Live Is Christ (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 1997), 81. Chapter Three Session Notes