

17 Family matters - Parenthood

What sort of parent is God?



Think about some of these passages:

Psalms 103:11-14;

Hosea 11:1-4

Isaiah 49:14-15 (God compares himself to a mother - it's not just about fathers)

Matthew 7:9-11; Hebrews 12: 5-14

Deuteronomy 8:1-5.

What qualities would you like your children to develop?



Does the Bible say the same?



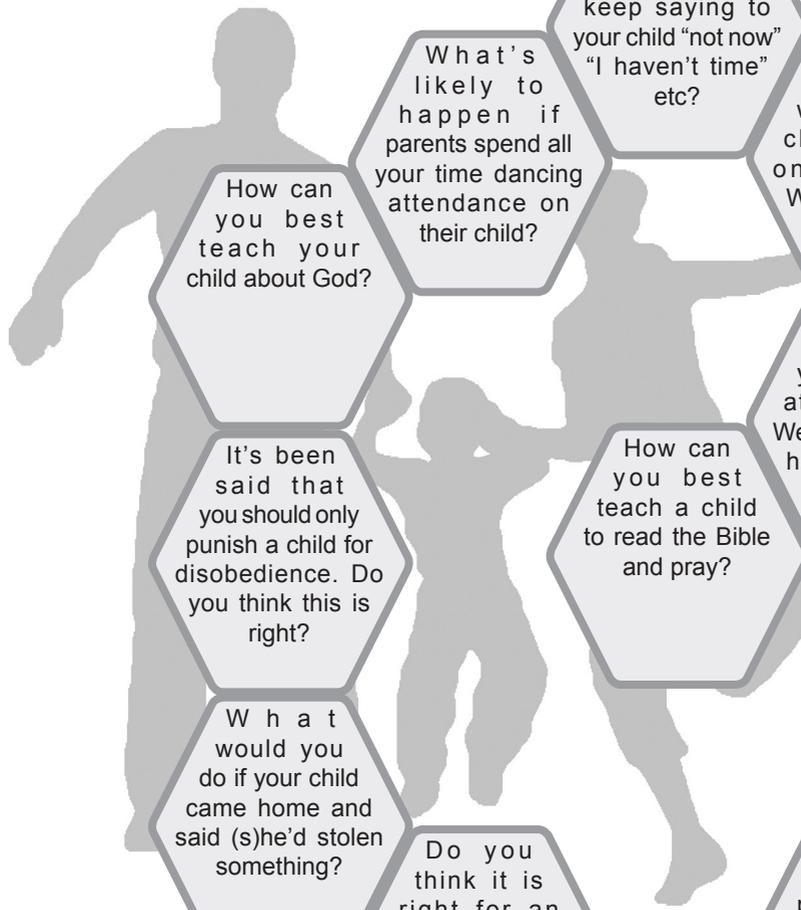
Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:7; 11:19; Psalm 78:4; Proverbs 22:6; 29:17; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Timothy 3:5,12 (this is particularly talking about leaders in the church but shows the importance of good parenting); 2 Timothy 3:14-15.

Discipline

What do you think discipline is? What is it for? What is the right way to discipline a child - and the wrong way?



"Believe me, you DON'T want to know what we just did."



How can you best teach your child about God?

What's likely to happen if parents spend all your time dancing attendance on their child?

What is likely to happen if you keep saying to your child "not now" "I haven't time" etc?

Should you decide what your child watches on television? What about the internet? Facebook?

It's been said that you should only punish a child for disobedience. Do you think this is right?

How can you best teach a child to read the Bible and pray?

Would you encourage your child to attend a Youth Weekend if it meant homework was not finished?

What would you do if your child came home and said (s)he'd stolen something?

Do you think it is right for an adult to apologise to a child?

Discuss the good points and the bad points of letting a child 'do his own thing'.

What do you think about smacking?

How much of this should you discuss with your fiancé(e) before you get married?

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with criticism, They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, They learn to fight.

If children live with fear, They learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, They learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, They learn to be shy.

If children live with jealousy, They learn what envy is.

If children live with shame, They learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance, They learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement, They learn to be confident.

If children live with praise, They learn to appreciate.

If children live with approval, They learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance, They learn to find love in the world.

If children live with recognition, They learn to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, They learn to be generous.

If children live with honesty and fairness, They learn what truth and justice are.

If children live with security, They learn to have faith in themselves, And those around them.

If children live with friendliness, They learn that the world, Is a nice place in which to live.

If children live with serenity, They learn to have a peace of mind.

With what are your children living?

Children Learn What They Live, by Dorothy L. Nolte