

## **Ladies Retreat - March 2013 - Parenting Young Children**

### **Verses of Vision & Encouragement:**

*She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.* Proverbs 31:26

*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.* Proverbs 22:6

*Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent in disciplining him.* Proverbs 13:24

*Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.* Proverbs 22:15

*Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death.* Proverbs 19:18

*For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.* Hebrews 12:11

*You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.* Deuteronomy 6:7

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."* Lamentations 3:22-24

*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.* Psalm 145:8-9

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.* Psalm 16:5-6

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* Galatians 6:9

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* 2 Corinthians 12:9-12:10

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* James 1:2-4

### **Our Favorite Parenting Books:**

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp

Don't Make Me Count to Three by Ginger Plowman and "Wise Words for Moms" chart

Loving the Little Years and Fit to Burst by Rachel Jankovic

Christ in the Chaos: How the Gospel Changes Motherhood by Kimm Crandall

The Duties of Parents by JC Ryle (1860) free pdf/kindle version available here:

<http://www.feedbooks.com/book/4236/the-duties-of-parents>

For Instruction in Righteousness by Pam Forster, published by Doorposts

### **Helpful Online Links:**

*Motherhood is Application* by Rachel Jankovic (posted at the Desiring God website)

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/motherhood-is-application>

*Advice for Parenting Young Kids* by Steve McCoy at Reformissionary

<http://www.stevemccoy.com/reformissionary/2013/02/advice-parenting-young-kids.html>

## A Word of Encouragement

Lamentations 3: 21-24 says ...

'but this I call to mind, and therefore, I have hope. the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. they are new every morning. great is your faithfulness. the Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him.

When I was younger, I confess I had a very romanticized view of motherhood. I dreamed of my children cheerfully playing together in their organized, sunny playroom (with cute outfits and combed hair), laughing and joyfully playing outside, fingerpainting every day ... you get the picture ... perfect days.

and then I had a baby. who could do none of these things.

by the time she reached the age to do them, there were siblings and the realities of motherhood had sunk in. children playing together in the playroom brought out selfish, unkind hearts, playing outside often ended in boo-boos for one or more children, or someone stuck in a tree, and fingerpainting ... honestly, I think we've done it a handful of times and always in the summer – outside!

my dream was of perfect moments. Now, I can honestly say that each of those have come true, but my daily life as a mother looks much different. There is training for each child to learn how to play together in the playroom, to speak kind words, to have compassion and love for the sibling who fell down outside, correction for the child who did not obey and fingerpainted the kitchen cabinets. This is the good work of motherhood. The Lord has blessed us & called us to a good work, to serve our families, take joy in providing for their needs, and model for our children what a Christian life looks like. This is a life dependent on the Lord and the grace of the gospel, every day. When sin makes things sticky around the house, it's my duty to ask Jesus to wash us all clean, again. He has promised His steadfast love will never cease. He has promised his mercies never come to an end.

The daily sacrifices are real. Nancy Wilson and her daughters write a blog that has brought much encouragement to me the past few years. She wrote a post last year that really hit home for me about the connection between blessings and duties/good work, and I want to read a portion of it to you. She says ...

*"When Jesus was telling the parable of the evil servant and the faithful servant in Luke 12, He concluded with this: "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more" (vs. 48).*

*I know this principle can be applied in multiple ways, which is the whole idea. Jesus' teaching is always relevant, and the Holy Spirit opens our eyes so we can connect the dots between Jesus' teaching and our own lives. We have all been given much, and so, connecting those dots, much will be required of us. We are called to be good stewards of all that has been given to us.*

*But there's also another principle. In Luke 19, Jesus is telling the parable of the talents. "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities" (vs. 17). If we are faithful over what we have been given, God will give us more. As my son once said, baskets of fruit are heavy. It takes strength to carry them, especially when God keeps heaping more and more in our baskets. Fruit is very, very good! But it's heavy!*

*So what have you been given? Do you have little responsibility? God will ask for an accounting. Steward it well. Be faithful. He will give you more. Do you have much? Then don't be surprised that you have many duties. Steward them well. Do you have a house full of children? Then you are blessed, and much is required of you. Remember this when you are up to your elbows in dishes and laundry and a hundred other things. Blessings come with duties. " at the end of the article she says ...*

*"God loves to bless us and He always gives us the strength to do what He commands. He never expects us to fulfill these obligations on our own. Blessings really are blessings, but I doubt they would be so without the attached duties. Connect the dots. See your duties as your faithful response to a loving Heavenly Father who has loaded you with blessings and given you the privilege of stewardship. And when you get tired, remember the blessings, and remind yourself that much is required of the blessed."* This post was a great encouragement to me, at a time when I was grumbling in my heart over the blessings God had so richly given, by focusing only on the work they created.

*Galatians 6:9 tell us ..And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Our goal as parents is not to raise perfect children who play in perfect sunny playrooms. Our goal is to love and honor God, and rest/work hard in the hope & promise of the gospel. great is His faithfulness.*