

3. Understand One Another's _____

A. The biblical role of the _____.

Colossians 3:21—*Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

Proverbs 23:26—*My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*

QUOTE: “You do not build a marble tower out of a mixture of mud and manure.”—EUGENE O’NEILL

The Job Description of Fatherhood (by Dennis Rainey)

- Manager
Psalm 78:72—*So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.*
- Minister
Proverbs 4:1–2—*Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.*
- Model
Psalm 78:5–7—*For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:*

QUOTE: “An incredible way to model God’s care is to lavish affection and encouragement on your children. We dads should never stop embracing our children, hugging them, and running our hands through their hair. And let’s not forget to say ‘I love you’ every day.”—DENNIS RAINEY

B. The biblical role of the _____.

2 Timothy 1:5—*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

Five Goals to Accomplish as a Mother (by Barbara Rainey)

- My children will know I love my husband.
- My children will know I love them.
- My children will know I sacrifice myself for them.
- My children will know they are a top priority.
- My children will know my home is a priority.

MARRIAGE ILLUSIONS

Today’s Lesson: Parenting Illusion

WHY WE BELIEVE IT

Overwhelmingly, children are a *blessing*—not a burden. So we assume that the joy they bring will automatically carry over into our marriage, by only doing what comes natural. Some whose marriage are struggling theorize that adding a child to the household will help them move past their difficulties.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT IT

Psalm 128:3—*Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.*

Proverbs 31:10–14, 23–31—*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar... Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

INTRODUCTION: _____

1. Understand God’s _____



A. A loving marriage is intended for a _____.

Matthew 19:4–6—*And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

QUOTE: “Your marriage must be built to outlast your kids.”

—DENNIS RAINEY

B. Children are a precious _____ from a gracious God.

Psalms 127:3–5—*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate*

C. Our purpose is to _____ our children for a God-centered adulthood.

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

Ephesians 6:4—*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

Titus 2:3–4—*The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

QUOTE: “The ultimate goal of parenting is to release your child someday to become dependent upon God and interdependent with others.”

—DENNIS RAINEY

2. Understand How to _____ Your Relationship while Parenting

QUOTE: “Your children need to see your devotion and commitment to your spouse even more than they need your devotion and commitment to them. Resolve conflicts with your spouse; forgive each other; remain faithful. These qualities of love build a powerful, profound sense of security in children.”—DENNIS RAINEY

A. Settle _____ on where you stand on the issues of life.

Amos 3:3—*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

A Few Issues of Life

- Doctrinal beliefs

- Moral values
- Priorities for spending time
- Priorities for spending money
- Entertainment and recreation choices
- Dating guidelines
- Educational decisions

B. Maintain a _____ front as parents.

Romans 15:5—*Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

Ephesians 4:3—*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

How to Maintain a Unified Front

- When you disagree, do so privately.
- Discuss potentially divisive issues ahead of time—anticipate and prepare together.
- Avoid conflicting expectations of your children.
- Confer with one another before answering (on some occasions).
- Don't side with your child against your spouse.

C. Do whatever necessary to get regular _____ together as a couple.

Ideas for Escaping Together

- Pray together at bedtime.
- Read a book to/with one another.
- Grab breakfast or lunch together while the kids are in school.
- Take a short walk together before the kids awake or after they've been tucked in.
- Hire a babysitter and go on a date. (Choose a restaurant you suspect your spouse will appreciate.)
- Attend the annual Couples Retreat!
- Call in the grandparents and take an overnight getaway together.
- Take a second honeymoon.

D. _____ in the responsibilities of parenting.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10—*Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*

Responsibilities to Share

- Diaper changing
- Meal preparation
- Household chores
- School functions and obligations
- Preparing clothing or supplies
- Correction and discipline