

**Raising them Right [Rated:PG parental guidance required]
Series on parenting - 2008**

Asking The Right Questions

(1)

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Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Main Passage) further study: Deuteronomy 6:20-25;11:1-21 especially verses 2 and 18-21

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

Key thought: Are you present in parenting?

Everyone is living the life or will live the life that is the product of their relationships, their experiences and the decisions they make. We make decisions based on the first two things mentioned, that is, our relationships and our experiences. Did you ever hear someone or perhaps you yourself have said, "I just want my kids to have some experiences that I never had?" That is certainly a well meaning motive. People look back at their life and they think about things they missed and they determine to give their kids what they didn't have. It may be a possession, or an education, a trip or adventure or one of hundreds of things. What happens in too many cases is that parents make sacrifices to provide these experiences at the expense of relationships. We tend to make kids experience rich and relationship poor. We then tend to measure our parenting according to our children's GPA's, accomplishments and acceptance among their peers. As parents, even with good motives, we sometimes get the mix of experience and relationships out of balance and that leads to bad decisions by our kids. We give lots of effort and maybe money to give them experiences but we are largely uninvolved in their lives. Parents that are uninvolved tend to overreact when a problem arises or a bad decision is made.

We are all the products of

- Our **relationships**
- Our **experiences**
- Our **decisions**

To help your children make good decisions

- Be careful not to make your children **experience** rich and **relationship** poor.
- Be careful not to overreact yet be under **involved**.
- Be careful not to assume that a fun life is a **full** life. Experiences may make for fun but relationships make it full.

Parental Guidance ~~suggested~~ **required** :

1. What are you doing to **make gains** in your relationship with your children?
2. What are you doing to help them **grow** their relationship with God?
3. What are you doing to **guard** their relationships with others?

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Possible discussion questions

1. Why do parents have a tendency to make their family experientially rich and relationship poor?
2. As you look back at your childhood can you identify a time where a richer relationship would have been more helpful? Explain.
3. What experiences have your children had that you never had? Is that important to you and why?
4. Where do you go for parenting advice?
5. How do you do parenting? What is your style? Experience, relationship or both? Your Spouse?
6. Is there a good balance of experience and relationship in your home? If no what changes need to be made?

Summary thought:

If parental guidance is required then parents must be present; they cannot be uninvolved.