

1 2 **Effective parents have 3 qualities**

- They teach their children the fear of God
- They keep their children's hearts by remaining emotionally connected to them
- They are physically present with their children and affectionate towards them
 - Like a 3-legged stool, lacking any of these three qualities can damage your children.
 - Having all three qualities does not guarantee success, but without these three qualities, success is the exception rather than the rule.

3 **The Olive Plants Around Your Table**

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.

4 **A God-Ordained Analogy**Children are “like” olive plants:

- Purposes of Olive Trees
- Propagation of Olive Trees
- Provision for Olive Trees
- Production of Fruit and Olive Oil
- Pruning of Olive Trees
- Protection of Olive Trees
- Preserving the Harvest

5 **The Importance of Understanding God’s Analogy**

- Garden of Gethsemane today has 2000+ year-old olive trees that grew from seedlings that were there when Christ prayed in the garden.
- KEY: We are to build a generational legacy of service to God by making and keeping vows and training the next generations to do so.
 - Jonadab & the Rechabites – Jeremiah 35:1-5.
 - The glory of old men is their grandchildren (Proverbs 17:6).

6 **Purposes of Olive Trees**

Imprints of Christ

Introducers to Christ

Illuminators of God’s Word

Imparters of Blessing

Imparters of Beauty

Inheritance of Joy

7 **1. An Imprint of Christ**

- Cherubim in Temple were constructed of olive wood overlaid with gold.
 - *And within the oracle he made two cherubim of olive tree, each ten cubits high* – 1 Kings 6:23
- Faces of the Cherubim – emblems of the Almighty

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8 Imprint of Christ explained

- Normally portrayed with two faces – Lion & Man – picture of the God-Man Jesus Christ
- Portrayed with four faces in the Holiest of Holies and to Ezekiel (Ezekiel 10:20-21):
 - Lion – King on Throne of David; Lordship of Christ
 - Man – Humanity of Christ
 - Ox – Servanthood of Christ
 - Eagle – Deity of Christ

9 Imprint of Christ principle

- Academics are important but are not to be the primary goal of parenting or home education.
- MISSION STATEMENT: *The PRIMARY goal of our home education and parenting is to build into the lives of our children the character of Christ so that when the world sees them, they see Him.*

10 2 Corinthians 5:20

- Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
- Our children should reflect:
 - A royal bearing – they are children of the King.
 - A heart of compassion for fellow human beings.
 - A servant's heart to serve others and make them successful.
 - A mind occupied by thoughts of God and His majesty.

11 Teach children to know Christ:**12 So . . .**

- Focus early childhood Scripture meditation on the Gospels.
 - Memorize and meditate on the Commands of Christ.
- Explain things with Jesus as the reference point for all truth – the *Logos* .
 - Search the epistles, Psalms, and Proverbs to explain life “opportunities.”
- Practice kneeling, praying, and crying out as a family. (Even toddlers will kneel if they see the rest of the family doing it!)

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13 Imprint of Christ — key tasks**14 2. Introducers to Christ**

- The doors of the Temple and their posts were made of olive wood.
 - 1 Kings 6:31-33.
 - The access to the Holy Place of the Temple was through these doors.
- Psalm 52:8 – *But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.*

15 Introducers to Christ — key tasks

- Teach by example how to work Christ into every conversation.

- Teach children how to:
 - Share spoken and written testimonies of how they came to know Christ.
 - How to lead someone to Christ using:
 - Tracts
 - Single verse Gospel presentation (Romans 6:23)
 - <http://www.mayishare.com>
 - Video training
 - Printable tracts / FORM method

16 3. Illuminators of God's Word

- Olive oil was used for the lamps in the Tabernacle and Temple.
- Olive oil is produced by the crushing of the olive.
 - Exodus 27:20 — *And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always* (cf. Leviticus 24:2).

17 Illuminators explained

- Our "light" is produced when:
 - We follow the Commands of Christ when confronted with difficulties (the "beaten" olive produces oil).
 - When we share rhemas.
- The light generated by children provides the credentials for the father's ministry.

18 Illuminators — key tasks

- At the dinner table, have each family member (including Dad) share something they learned that day that illustrates or illuminates a passage of Scripture:
 - A biblical insight gained from careful study of God's Word.
 - A *rhema* God gave them during Scripture meditation.
 - How a trial benefited them and enabled them to be a light for Christ.

19 4. Imparters of blessing

- God designed olives to bless the widows, fatherless, and strangers in the land.
 - According to the Law, the olive tree was only to receive one "beating" or "shaking" to release the fruit.
 - All fruit left on the tree after that was to benefit the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.
 - *"When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow"* (Deuteronomy 24:20; see also Isaiah 17:6, 24:13).

20 Imparters of blessing—key tasks

- Bless your children and let them know they are a blessing to you!
 - Haggai 2:19, Nehemiah 9:25 – Fruitful olive trees were a daily reminder of God's blessing.
- Actively engage children in family ministry.
- Helps produce long-term faithfulness in our children.
- Look for special opportunities with widows, fatherless children, and foreign language groups.

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- 21 **5. Imparters of beauty**
 - Those who by repentance maintain a right relationship with God will display the “beauty” of bright countenance.
 - Hosea 14:6 – *His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.*
 - Dads, teach children by example what a repentant heart looks like.
 - “... *in my flesh dwelleth no good thing.*”
 - Go to the cross and die quickly, so there’s no need of having your knees broken.
- 22 **Propagation of Olive Trees**
- 23 **1. Train roots of character**
 - Propagation by seedlings:
 - Produces a deep root
 - Forms tall trees
 - Has delayed fruitfulness
 - The first fruit is at 12-15 years; longer than for stem cuttings or hardwood cuttings.
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- 24 **Train roots of character (2)**
 - Propagation by truncheon:
 - Uses a portion of a horizontal surface root from an existing olive tree
 - Produces a tree with quicker fruitfulness because the root system is more quickly established
 - Character is more caught than taught. Parents have to be the real deal!
- 25 **Train roots of character (3)**
- 26 **Train roots of character (4)**
- 27 **Spurgeon on your olive plants**
 - *The Psalmist never intended to suggest the idea of olive plants round a table, but of young people springing up around their parents, even as olive plants surround the fine, well-rooted tree. The figure is very striking, and would be sure to present itself to the mind of every observer in the olive country. How beautiful to see the gnarled olive, still bearing abundant fruit, surrounded with a little band of sturdy successors, any one of which would be able to take its place should the central olive be blown down, or removed in any other way.*
- 28 **2. Train children to serve rather than rule**
 - Judges 9:8-9 — An Olive Tree Personified
 - *The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honor God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?*
 - The olive tree in this passage “chose” to produce its “fatness” (fruitfulness) rather than rule over the other trees.

29 **Train children to serve rather than rule (2)**

- It saw its mission as blessing men that they might honor God and in turn bless still other men.
- We are to be like that olive tree. We should operate by the Psalm 75:6 secret.

30 **The Psalm 75:6 Secret**

- *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*
 - Why is the NORTH not mentioned?
 - The sacrifice was killed on the north side of the altar (Leviticus 1:11).
 - Promotion comes from sacrifice!

31 **Teaching children to serve**

- KEY: Teach children to enlarge their “coasts” and expand their opportunities by living and serving sacrificially to make others successful

32 **Provision for Olive Trees**33 **1. Support with strong ties when young**

- Often, olive trees are staked until they are five years old to allow root system to be firmly established. Proper staking requires at least three stakes (a “threefold cord”).
- In formative years, concentrate on developing relationships rather than teaching academics.

34 **“Staking” Relationships**

- Stake 1: God’s Word
 - Emphasize the special privilege of possessing a Bible.
 - Have a special ceremony to present them a *Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible* when they develop some reading proficiency.
 - Engrave their name on it.
 - Establish accountability for daily insights.
 - Reward Scripture memorization.

35 **“Staking” Relationships (2)**

- Stake 2: Dad – Children learn how to relate to God from their fathers.
 - Dad should spend one-on-one time with children – even if just running errands.
 - Create a safe atmosphere where they can talk to Dad about anything without fear of an angry reaction.
 - Find a godly man in the absence of a father. (Men, volunteer to be that guy.)
- Stake 3: Mom – Children learn how to relate to others from their mothers.

36 **“Staking” Relationships (3)**

- Stake 4: Siblings
 - *Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends* by Sarah, Stephen, and Grace Mally
 - Love projects:
 - Showing deference
 - Giving treasures
 - Words of encouragement

- Shared ministry projects

37 **A weekly staking calendar**

- Monday – Giving day (love gives)
 - Give something to a sibling that you would give to a friend.
- Tuesday – Serving day
 - Galatians 5:13 – ... *by love serve one another*.
- Wednesday – Edification day (1 Corinthians 8:1).
 - Give tangible edification to encourage another.

38 **A weekly staking calendar (2)**

- Thursday – Preference day
 - Romans 12:10 – *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another*.
 - Give up a privilege that you want for someone else. Honor someone else.
- FRIDAY – Thankfulness day
 - Share how you are thankful for another family member. Make sure that each family member is appreciated.

39 **2. Incremental release**

- Give incremental opportunities for ministry:
 - “Arrows in the hands of a mighty man” are shot and then retrieved.
 - Start with “safe” situations and then let them take greater risks for Christ.
 - Helps them develop their own dynamic relationship with God instead of just having their parents’ faith.

40 **3. Release potential by engrafting scripture**

- The Tree:
 - Grafting is best done in heat; it increases the fruitfulness of the tree.
 - To avoid root system competition, the husbandmen will graft cultivated branches into wild olive tree.

41 **Grafting releases potential**

- View special times of “irritations to be transformed” (ITBT) as guidance for selecting Scriptures to engraft as a family.
 - Family engrafting of Scriptures is a way for the whole family to participate in the “fatness” (riches) of God’s love, mercy, and presence.

42 **4. Establish strong deep roots**

- Children need parents who are credible messengers (living out the truths they teach to their children).
- Focus on proper care of the tree (love) instead of outward results (conformity to standards).

43 **Establish strong roots (2)**

- Watering:
 - Should be done deeply, but not too often or roots will be shallow and subject to root rot.

– Neither should you just “spray” the tree with water – this sets it up for fungal infection.

44 **Establish strong roots (3)**

- Children must be taught to sink their roots into God’s Word and find their own rhemas.
 - Don’t just “water” or “spoon-feed” them the Word.

45 **Establish strong roots (4)**

- Point them to Bible passages, but let them find the answers.
 - Suggest Bible verses for meditation that address problems they are having. Let God speak to them and let them learn to listen.
 - Give praise for asking questions of Scripture and for finding answers to life problems.

46 **Production of Fruit and Oil**

47 **1. Fruit forms on new growth**

- Each year, the olive fruit forms on new, tender branches.
 - Long-established branches bear no fruit and must either support the fruit-bearing branches or be pruned.
- Key: Children will not be fruitful unless spiritual growth continues.
 - While academics are important, spiritual growth must remain the focal point of home education.

48 **2. Encourage new growth**

- Share new insights at the dinner table.
 - Praise the character qualities that cause them to find these new insights.
 - Give daily blessing for spiritual insight and service.
- Conduct family rhema searches.
- Teach children to disciple others.
 - Give older children an opportunity to disciple younger siblings.
 - Give increasing responsibility for ministry.

49 **3. Increase fruitfulness through incremental release**

- Some olives are picked early – while still green. When these are picked, it allows the remaining olives to become more plump and of greater value.
- Immature olives produce less oil.
- Most valuable oil comes from the fully mature olive.
- Key: Incremental release for ministry aids in producing a mature faith.

50 **4. Increase oil content**

- Irrigate
 - The “waters” in Psalm 1 are actually irrigation ditches created by meditating on God’s Law day and night.
 - Encourage memorization and meditation on the Commands of Christ.

51 **Increase oil content (2)**

- Fertilizer
 - Rhemas – Family rhemas and personal rhemas

- Blessing – Identity statement; personal touch
- Prayer – STOP & DROP! (Pray with children the moment concerns or needs arise)
- Encouragement – Make the effort even when you are away from home! (Don't just talk to them when there's trouble!)
- Letters of blessing and life purpose from Dad

52 **5. Avoid reducing oil content**

A reduction in oil content can be caused by:

- Over-watering to produce false results:
 - Unscrupulous olive tree husbandmen will water until picking time. This produces olives full of water but low on oil.
 - Reputable growers cease watering six (6) weeks before harvest. This produces olives that may weigh less but which have higher oil content.
- Refrigeration reduces oil content.

53 **Avoid reducing oil content (2)**

- KEY: Children need to be getting their own rhemas and doing their own Bible study before they are incrementally released for ministry.
 - They should not possess only a "spoon-fed" spirituality.
 - Journey to the Heart can help.
- Refrigeration reduces oil content.
 - Do not remove all hardships for your children.
 - The heat of hardship will prepare them for fruitfulness to the Lord.

54 **Avoid reducing oil content (3)**

- Lack of fruitfulness in child may signal disobedience in the parents
 - Deuteronomy 28:15,18,32,40-41 (cf. Amos 4:9) -- *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: . . . Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. . . . Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit. 41 Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.*

55 **Pruning of Olive Trees**

56 **Prune for fruitfulness**

57 **Prune for fruitfulness (continued)**

58 **The rest of the story...**

1. How to preserve the spiritual harvest in your children -- protecting your olive plants from their three greatest enemies
2. God's plan for preserving the harvest
3. The keys for dad to have an understanding heart