

Principles for Parenting Success

Family Matters! Week 2

February 6 & 7

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

Common Approaches:

- Ostrich Approach
- Delegator Approach
- Neiman Marcus Approach
- Warden Approach
- Busy Bee Approach
- Church Mouse Approach
- Taxi Cab Approach

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **encouraging, comforting and urging** you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Remember the chief objective:

- That they may live lives _____

The Process

1. We need to encourage our children

Acts 28.15

- We encourage _____
- We encourage _____
- We encourage _____ *
- We encourage _____

2. We need to comfort our children

2 Corinthians 1.3-4

3. We need to urge our children

Titus 2.7

In everything set them an example by doing what is good.

1 Timothy 4.16

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- And one more thing...the "D" word = _____

Proverbs 13.24, Proverbs 19.18, Hebrews 12.11

*See "Passages That Encourage" on back –item 4.

1. Which of the common approaches to parenting mentioned (Ostrich, Busy Bee, Neiman Marcus, etc...) do you most often see? Which one might apply to you?

2. Discuss what Pastor John presented as the 'chief objective'—God's purpose for parenting. Can you relate to those who feel the chief objective in successful parenting is 'survival'?

3. Which of the four ways to encourage have you used? Which has been a blessing to you from others? Have you ever known someone who has an exceptional ability to encourage you? Share a quick story.

4. Have someone read the following 'Passages That Encourage' & paraphrase the truths from these verses that can be used as we encourage others: Jeremiah 29.11; Ephesians 3.20; Proverbs 3.6; Mark 8:35; Romans 8.37.

5. As we encourage others and affirm them for their efforts, how can we avoid making our kids think our love is 'conditional' or based on their performance?

6. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "We shouldn't expect our kids to live it, if we aren't living it". Discuss the importance of setting an example.

7. Why are boundaries and consequences so important to child rearing and healthy relationships? Discuss.