

CHARLES SWINDOLL | LENYA HEITZIG | C.H. SPURGEON | SKIP HEITZIG

# Connection

the magazine

**CHILDREN:  
GOD'S REWARD**

p. 6

**PRACTICALLY  
PERFECT PARENTING**

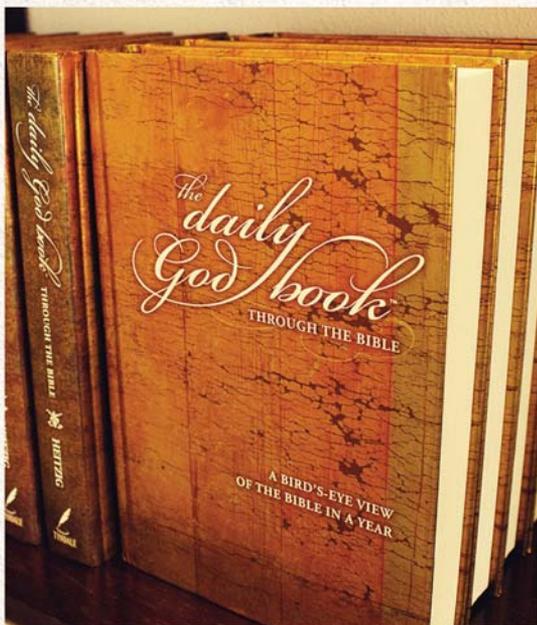
p. 12

**THE ROD**

p. 26

ISSUE 11 | APRIL-JUNE 2011

# CONNECTION RESOURCES ONLINE STORE



BOOKS | DVDS | CDS | AUDIO TEACHINGS



Visit our online store to find resources to help you grow in knowledge of God's Word. You'll find topical and verse-by-verse teachings, books, pamphlets, and educational DVDs, as well as music and MP3 downloads.

# CONNECTIONRADIO.ORG



Dear Friend,

Welcome to our spring edition of *Connection—the magazine!* As the weather begins to warm, children look forward to summer vacation and parents begin planning for sunny days. And with the kids roaming the house and neighborhood more often, we, as Christians, long to be good parents. We want to point them to the Son. Using Scripture as our solid foundation, this issue is devoted to Christian parenting.

As I wrote in my article, God uses several terms to describe children: heritage, inheritance, gift, assignment, reward—even arrows. Through His Word, God makes it clear He desires us to see children through His eyes and that He holds us responsible for treating them with special care.

As we began in our last issue, our Daily Devo section is directly based on my devotional, *The Daily God Book*. This quarter, we continue in 1 Kings and move all the way through the book of Jonah.

Charles Swindoll, the author of over thirty books, has contributed an article from his book *Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving*. I am sure you will gain great insight from the excerpt.

My beautiful wife, Lenya, (now a proud grandmother), encourages and reminds us there are no perfect parents—other than our heavenly Father. Her article is both practical and inspiring.

Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, speaks with me in “Off the Cuff” about the responsibilities of Christian parents in America today.

Our “From the Blog” section answers a very important question, especially in today’s society. Are children with only one Christian parent at a disadvantage in maintaining their Christian walk later in life? And our “Hot Spots” focuses on the ever controversial “spanking dilemma.” What does Scripture command regarding corporal punishment?

As always, you’ll find great resources, articles, and relevant information to help you grow in your personal walk with Jesus Christ. May God bless you!

In His Strong Love,

Skip Heitzig

- 21 The Vault
- 22 Dead Pastors' Society
- 26 Hot Spots
- 29 Fast Facts
- 30 Off the Cuff
- 32 From the Blog
- 34 The Gallery
- 35 Daily Devo
- 44 Stay Connected
- 45 Word Search
- 46 Next Issue

**Practically  
Perfect Parenting**

Lenya Heitzig

16

**From Surviving  
to Thriving**

Charles Swindoll

06

**Children:  
God's Reward**

Skip Heitzig



a publication of



**Publisher**  
Skip Heitzig  
skipheitzig.com

**Director**  
Brian Nixon

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Rebekah Hanson

**Managing Editors**  
Mary Bishop  
Joan Polito  
Nancy Reimann  
Jerry Rood  
Penny Rose  
Laura Sowers

**Contributors**  
Lena Heitzig  
C.H. Spurgeon  
Penny Rose  
Charles Swindoll  
Dr. Albert Mohler

**Design Director**  
Brandi Sea Heft

**Ad Design**  
Khanh Dang

---

**Our Mission:**  
Connecting  
you to God's  
never-changing  
truth in  
ever-changing  
times.

---

Connection Communications  
4001 Osuna Rd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505.344.9146

# PERFECT FOR CHRISTIANS WHO DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE IN CHURCH



Confused by all the different kinds of churches? Do parts of church history baffle you? Are there trends in the church today that look attractive—but may not be biblical? In this book, Pastor Skip Heitzig takes us back to the biblical bedrock: Jesus Christ. Pastor Skip shows us that in order to succeed in the future, the church must return to the foundation of Jesus Christ. Once we realize that we *do* need church, let's learn how to survive it—and then thrive as its members.

1.800.922.1888 - CONNECTIONRADIO.ORG

G

H

I

O

R

B



# God's Reward

*Webster's Dictionary* defines a child this way: "an unborn or recently born person; a young person especially between infancy and youth; a son or daughter of human parents." To me, these definitions fall far short of describing the miracle a child is and the value he or she represents.

In fact, I believe few people think of children solely in terms of age or

biology. Positively or negatively, directly or indirectly, people view children in many different ways: blessings, burdens, responsibilities, miracles, accidents, challenges, dependents, possessions, adventures, teachers. God, too, uses several terms to describe children: heritage, inheritance, gift, assignment, reward, arrows. Through His Word, God makes it clear He desires us to see children through His eyes and that He holds us responsible for treating them with special care.

## A Heritage

Psalm 127 tells us, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them" (Psalm 127:3-5).

The term heritage used in this verse means "possession, property, portion, inheritance." Several translations use the term "gift." One translation uses the term "assignment." I like that. Just when you thought school was over, God says, "Here's an assignment for you. Here's a child to be molded like clay. This child is your

heritage, your assignment from Me."

From this verse, we learn that children initially belong to God. They are His to create and His to give. He gives them to us, along with the responsibility to care for them.

## A Reward

Psalm 127:3 also says children are a reward. Make a note of that. They're not an accident, curse, or inconvenience. They're a reward. What a difference I believe we would see in our children if all parents treated them as a reward.

Let me note for those who know couples who are unable to, or who have chosen not to have children, children are not God's only reward. God rewards His sons and daughters in many different, creative ways designed specifically for the individual plans He has for each of us.

## Arrows

Psalm 127:4 says, "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." God calls children "arrows." What do you do with an arrow? You shoot it at a target. This verse tells us children are to be launched like an arrow with a target in mind. The target: God and His specific will for their lives.

Sadly, many parents fail to see the target. We fail to study our children to see what gifts and calling God has put within them. We fail to encourage them to develop their God-given talents. God calls us to prepare, draw, and launch our "arrows" as He directs us in His Word.

## Valued by God

We also know children are important and valuable to Jesus, who gave several specific commands regarding children, including: "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). He also said, "It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14).

Four hundred years before Jesus Christ, the philosopher Socrates commented on the Greeks' propensity to

Every child is uniquely created and intimately known by God

throw away children, then regarded as dispensable and secondary to professions and wealth. Socrates said, "Could I climb the highest place in Athens, I would lift up my voice and proclaim, 'Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth and take so little care of your children to whom you must one day relinquish all?'" What a powerful indictment of ancient Greece and modern America.

## Uniquely Created by God

Every child is uniquely created and intimately known by God. "Fearfully and wonderfully made," each child has a unique temperament, a unique personality, a unique set of abilities, and a unique plan designed by God. Psalm 139 tells us:

*For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.  
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made; marvelous are Your  
works, and that my soul knows very well.  
My frame was not hidden from  
You, when I was made in secret, and  
skillfully wrought in the lowest parts  
of the earth. Your eyes saw my  
substance, being yet unformed. And in  
Your book they all were written, the days  
fashioned for me, when as yet there  
were none of them (Psalm 139:13-16).*

## Human

As different as they are from each other, all children have one thing in common: a self-assertive nature that must be channeled.

Jeremiah tells us, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Paul writes in Romans, "As the Scriptures say, 'No one is good—not even one' (Romans 3:10 NLT); and later, "Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12). David writes, "For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5 NLT). The moment each of us was conceived by our parents, we inherited a sinful nature.

As I watched my son grow, I thought, "God, it's wonderful to see the development processes You've created within

my son. He is indeed 'fearfully and wonderfully made.'" Yet, deep within my son's heart, there's a sinful nature that is corrupt to the core.

As you read this, you might be thinking, "Not my kid." Let me ask this: Did you ever have to teach your child to disobey? Did you ever have to say: "Now, son, you're a little too good. In fact, you're almost perfect. Give the other kids a break. Here, let me tell you how to sin a little bit. I'm good at it"? On the contrary, kids need to be taught to obey, love, and share unselfishly because the other things come so naturally.

## Obedience: A Child's Role

God's primary instructions to children, we find, are regarding their relationship with their parents. The fifth of the Ten Commandments is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). Scripture repeats this commandment no less than eight times. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul wrote, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well

Our children see us as role models of how they ought to be

pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). To the Ephesians, he instructed, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).

The word *children* in the latter two verses is translated from the Greek word *teknon*, which refers to all offspring of any age. Since every person is the child of two parents, and every Christian is a child of God (John 1:12), Paul's message in Colossians 3:20 is to all of us.

As parents, our responsibility to heed Paul's instructions to children is great. Our children see us as role models of how they ought to be. If I treat my parents with disrespect, my children will observe this and model their behavior toward me from the way they see me treating my parents. In addition, because we teach our children that God is our heavenly Father, children also model their behavior toward us as parents from the way they see us responding to God. When our children see us thanking God, looking to God's Word for instruction, and living our lives the way God's Word tells us to, they see an example of how they ought to respond to us as parents.

## Skip's Tips

### **Don't use idle threats or bribes.**

Rather, specifically instruct your children, warn them of the consequences of disobedience, and follow through. For example, tell them, "Don't do that. If you do, I'm going to spank you." If they don't obey, follow through—the first time, not the second or third.

### **Don't discipline through criticism and comparison.**

The phrase, "Why can't you be more like...?" can ruin a child. Love, appreciate, affirm, and discipline your children for who they are and what they do—not who they aren't and what they don't do.

### **Don't discipline your children when you're angry with them.**

Heed the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who said, "Hard words

bruise the heart of a child." Let them know you love them and make sure they know why they are being punished. You might tell them, "I've warned you and now I'm going to punish you. I still love you, but I have to punish you because you disobeyed me." After disciplining, affirm your children by telling them you love them and by mentioning some of the positive qualities you appreciate about them.

**Don't focus on the short-term effects of discipline.** Think of its long-range rewards. Don't structure or evaluate your discipline by the immature way they respond to you today. What matters more is the way they respond twenty years from now. By disciplining correctly now, you give both your children and yourself the gift of enabling them to look back and say, "Thank you. I love you. It worked."

**Admit to your kids when you're wrong.** When you've messed up, tell them "I'm sorry." Children don't expect perfection, but they do expect, remember, and respect honesty. Trusting God with our children does not mean taking a backseat in their development. The New Testament tells us our trust and faith are active, not passive. In fact, James tells us "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). So is parenting without involvement. With all of our might, we need to fight passivity. We need to be active and involved in our children's lives.

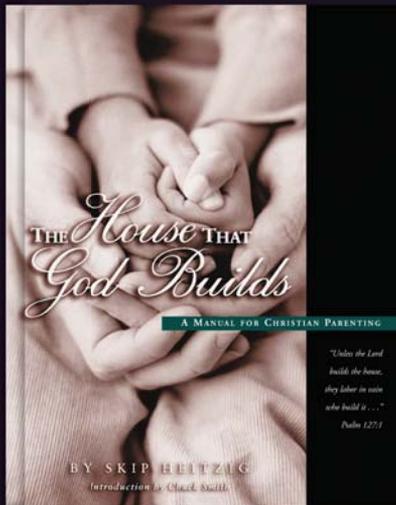


\*Excerpt from *The House that God Builds: A Manual for Christian Parenting* by Skip Heitzig



Skip Heitzig is the author of the book *Homeland Security* and is the senior pastor of Calvary of Albuquerque.

Relax! You will never  
be a perfect parent,  
but you can be a  
good one...

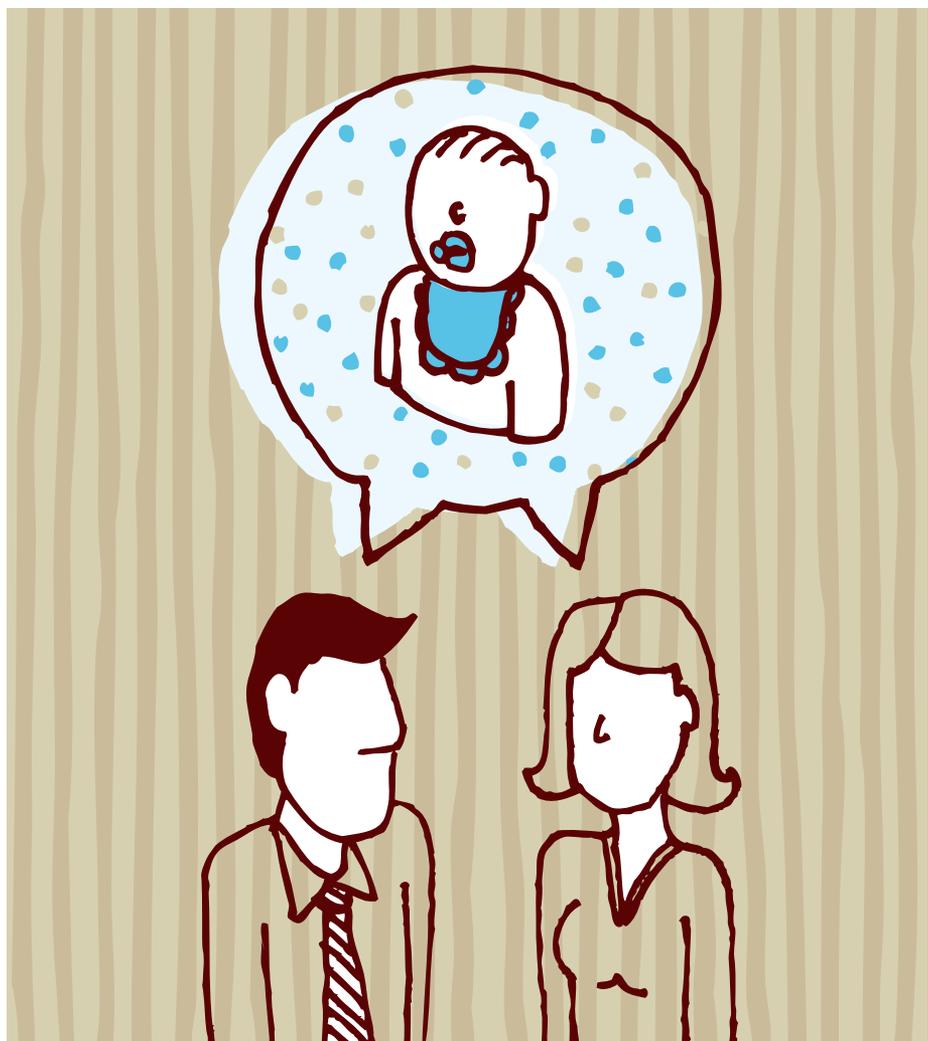


God has entrusted each of us as parents with a young soul to steer toward Him. Our primary goal in training our children should be that they give their lives to Jesus Christ and grow up in a relationship with Him.

Chuck Smith  
(Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa)

\$10  
on sale

1.800.922.1888  
connectionradio.org



# Practically Perfect Parenting

by Lenya Heitzig

Remember the wonderful movie *Mary Poppins*? Mary was the super-confident English nanny who floated into a family home in 1910 London. Little Jane and Michael were out of control because they had everything but the hearts of their parents, who drifted off course, distracted with various causes and work demands. But Mary, being “practically perfect in every way,” brought order, fun, and adventure into the home.

I’ve discovered that following the desires found in our unredeemed hearts can take us off course. In fact, God has warned, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways” (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

We may not be able to navigate the deep waters of the human heart, but God can. He’s shown me how to steer my heart in the right direction. By exposing my desires to three simple questions—What do I want? Why do I want it? What am I willing to do to get it?—I can avoid dangerous obstacles and enjoy smooth sailing.

### *What Do I Want?*

The first determination of whether a desire is right or wrong is found in the object of your desire. It depends on what you want. For instance, there’s a big difference between looking for love and longing for lust. My mother warned me, “Be careful what you wish for . . . you may just get it.” In fact, that is precisely what Samson’s mother told her son when he wanted to marry a Philistine, a woman from a race with which the Jews were strictly forbidden to intermarry. His mom tried to persuade Samson to obey God’s commands and choose a bride from among his own people, but to no avail. What Samson desired more than anything was Delilah. And when he got her, she was his undoing (see Judges 16). Samson should have asked himself, “Do I want what God wants?”

### *Why Do I Want It?*

The second test to discern if your desire is helpful or harmful depends on why you want what you want. Is the desire for greedy gain or God’s glory? Motive is a key factor and that’s exactly where Eve stumbled. When the serpent asked her, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1), Eve passed the test with flying colors, telling the devil that since God said no, she wouldn’t even touch the forbidden fruit. So why did Eve ultimately succumb to temptation? Because Satan presented her with an enticing motive: “For God knows that the day you eat of it . . . you *will be like God*” (Genesis 3:5, emphasis added). With this incentive in her

heart, “the woman saw that the tree was . . . *desirable to make one wise*, [and] she took of its fruit and ate” (Genesis 3:6, emphasis added). And when she did, it was the downfall of the human race. Eve should have asked herself, “Why do I want what God doesn’t want?”

### *What Am I Willing to Do to Get It?*

Finally, the litmus test of a desire’s merit lies in how you go about getting it. Many a misguided dreamer has attempted to get the right thing the wrong way. You must ask yourself, “What am I willing to do to get what I want?” In Acts 8, we read about the radical conversion of Simon the sorcerer who had “astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God’” (Acts 8:9-10). Simon loved the limelight, but he was outshone by the signs and wonders God performed through Philip. Simon’s star was further eclipsed when Peter and John baptized believers with the Holy Spirit. The ex-sorcerer became so envious of their power and prestige that “he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 8:18-19). Peter harshly rebuked him, saying that God’s Spirit is not for sale and His servants cannot be manipulated with a bribe. Simon should have asked himself, “What makes me think I can get the right thing the wrong way?”

### *God-Given Desires*

If there’s such a thing as wrong desires, then how can we know what are the right desires? What did David mean when he said “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4)? The answer is found in the source of these desires—do they originate with our heavenly Father or our fallen na-

ture? God does not grant us every wish or whim—He is not some heavenly genie in a bottle. But He does promise to plant His holy desires within His children’s hearts. In other words, as we delight ourselves in God, He places desires in our hearts that please Him.

In order for desires to be holy, they must be according to His will, His Word, and His way. Consider the following Scriptures:

- **His Word:** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).
- **His will:** “We can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will” (1 John 5:14 NLT).
- **His way:** “You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father” (John 14:13 NLT).

### *Our Perfect Parent*

From the time that our son Nate could talk, he knew that he wanted weapons.

Even before he could speak, he knew how to make the sounds of each and every implement of death.

His desire was to amass an armory that rivaled any story-book hero’s. At Knott’s Berry Farm, he wanted a bullwhip just like Indiana Jones. At Toys-R-Us, he craved a revolver like Dick Tracy’s.

And in Hawaii, he begged us for a machete like Crocodile

Dundee’s. When he picked up a huge knife in a tourist shack, we

both shouted, “No!” No parent in his or her right mind would let a three-year-old wield a blade of that magnitude. It was quite simple: When Nate asked for something that was not according to our will, we got in the way.

Thank God that when Nate turned 16, his desires changed. Instead of weapons, he wanted wheels. Before he had put a license into his wallet, he was already

*He is not just a good Father; He is the perfect parent*

asking for the keys to a car. He had spent the last five years saving every penny from birthdays and Christmases to buy the car of his dreams. With \$3,000 in his bank account, we entered the used car lot. And there, gleaming in the sunlight, was a '93 Volvo 850 for just \$3,400. It was fire-engine red and in primo condition. Since our son wanted what we wanted—a safe, reliable car—our answer was a resounding yes! When his request was in line with our will, we paved the way.

*Desiring to be a godly mom or dad is definitely God's will*

It's the same with God. He is not just a good Father; He is the perfect parent. Jesus informed moms and dads:

"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him" (Matthew 7:9-11 NLT).

The lesson is simple: If you want God to say yes to your heart's desires, then make sure that you are asking for something that He desires. If the Lord has been saying no to some of your prayers, perhaps you are asking Him for the wrong thing.

Desiring to be a godly mom or dad is definitely God's will. No matter how hard we try, I doubt that any one of us will ever be a "practically perfect" parent. But when our deepest desires are to please and honor our own heavenly Father, we can confidently trust that our parenting efforts, though imperfect, will glorify Him. **L**



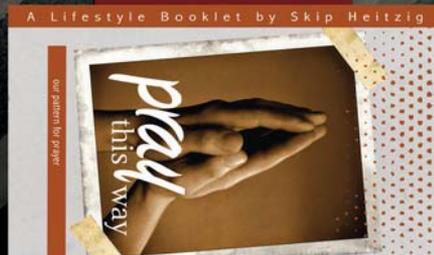
**Lenya Heitzig** is an award-winning author and sought-after speaker at conferences and retreats worldwide.

a lifestyle booklet by Skip Heitzig

# this is the year of PRAYER

Let's learn together through the template of the Lord's Prayer just how our heavenly Father wants us to pray to Him.

1.800.922.1888 | [connectionradio.org](http://connectionradio.org)



Using discipline, “the rod and reproof,” to correct the bent toward evil and guide the child toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is a necessary part of parenting. Dealing with rebellious, defiant behavior requires discipline on the part of the parent because **no one likes being the “bad guy” to the child.** But if it’s done correctly, the discipline process actually creates more opportunity to bond with him or her and to focus on the aspect of parenting we find more enjoyable.

**Then, just as the Lord knows each of His children intimately, we must seek to know our child well.** That requires time, keen observation, patience, interaction, and lots of prayer. But if we put effort into this crucial responsibility as a parent, our children will reap benefits long after they have become adults. I can name at least three.

from  
**Surviving**



to  
**Thriving**

Charles Swindoll

## First, *every adult longs to have memories of a parent's love.*

I have found some measure of healing in my own life by giving my own children what I desired so much from my parents. It's an odd kind of melancholy relief that I find soothing. Whatever else I may have done poorly, I know that my children know that I love them.

## Second, *every adult wants to have a strong sense of personal control*—control of life's circumstances,

control over self during temptation, control over choices that affect the future. I took no command of my life when I graduated from high school. I merely followed in the steps that seemed to come next. I had no particular passion, no specific pursuit. Fortunately, the Lord took control of my life through a series of circumstances that made little sense until many years later. How much better for a child to know who he or she is, the Lord's plans for the world, and how he or she will serve Him. That knowledge gives an adult the tools necessary to make wise, responsible, God-honoring decisions.

## Third, *every adult desires to feel the security of self-respect.*

When a growing child understands how God put him or her together, when adulthood comes, he or she enjoys well-defined personal boundaries. These boundaries provide a person the strength to stand his or her ground in the face of injustice, abuse, or attempted manipulation. Because others have little room to toy with his or her identity, he or she is virtually immune to exploitation. This, by the way, includes Satan's attacks as well. A strong sense of identity in Christ is the best defense against the devil's chief weapon: deception.

## Action Steps Worth Taking

Now let me turn these into actions we can apply.

### *First, determine to know your child's uniqueness.*

Knowledge of your child will not come to you automatically. This will require keen observation and sensitive determination to seek the knowledge you need. Turn each day with your child into an opportunity to discover who he or she is on the inside. I'm not suggesting you watch and record their actions like they're a bunch of lab rats. Learn to know them like you would any other person—a friend, a mate. Spend lots of time with them that has no agenda. Communicate. Ask questions. Observe what makes your child happy, bored, stimulated, agitated, angry. Look for natural gifts in athletics, music, and academics. Talk to teachers, youth leaders, and other parents. Be deliberate about discovering each child's identity.

As you do this, you will cultivate a deepening love for your child. You cannot love someone you don't know, but knowing him or her allows greater opportunity to feel and show love. The child, in return, will gain self-awareness, the first step to self-discipline.

### *Second, discipline yourself to set limits on your child's*

*will.* This is hard work and it's unpleasant...But curbing his willful defiance at age ten will help you gain enough control over his behavior to help him control himself by the time he reaches older adolescence. This doesn't mean that children will never

A child gains self-awareness  
from being known. A child gains  
self-control from being disciplined

disobey or push against your boundaries, but it will keep chaos from ruling the home and destroying any hope of normal development.

A wisely disciplined child will grow into an adult who can handle himself or herself in private. When he's in a hotel and he can watch anything he wants, he learns to avoid X-rated channels because he learned self-control at home. Road rage isn't a problem for her because she learned to control herself from you. He only knows that yelling and screaming during an argument will only bring heartache and regrets because he learned to guard his actions and watch his words when his emotions are running high. Your consistent, firm, yet loving discipline taught him those skills.

A child gains self-awareness from being known. A child gains self-control from being disciplined.

### Third, *affirm your child's*

*value.* This is more difficult than you might imagine because affirming a child's value without resorting to flattery will require discernment. My good friend Jim Dobson is a strong proponent of building a child's self-esteem, but many have twisted his counsel into something bizarre. For fear of wounding a child's self-image, teachers, coaches, and parents won't challenge him or her to excel. Poor performance as a result of little or no effort is typically met with gleeful cheers. A child is given compliments and affirmation that have no basis, which only seems to confuse him or her.

Flattery will amount to nothing ultimately. Instead, look for an authentic basis for compliments. Base your affirmation on characteristics that you genuinely see and truly admire. Reward real effort with encouragement, recognizing that his or her qualities and achievements will have child-sized proportions. To do this, you will have to know your son or daughter well. Furthermore, you will have to know what motivates your child, how much encouragement he or she will need, when to challenge him or her to try harder, and when it's appropriate to try something else.

The result for the parent is a growing respect for the child. The benefit for the child is he or she gains self-respect. And a child with a healthy respect for self will be prepared to enjoy healthy relationships as an adult.

As you determine to know your child's uniqueness, discipline yourself to set limits on his or her will, and affirm his or her value, take notes from the perfect Father. He knows you intimately, which puts Him in the best position to develop your maturity. He doesn't give you everything you want but never fails to meet your every need. And because He knows you, He knows the difference. His desire for you is that you grow into the kind of believer who enjoys the personality and the gifts He has given you, and He longs to see you fully alive. As the Lord develops your maturity, do the same for your child.

There are few responsibilities more rewarding than this...So don't wait to get started! Even if you've not done these things before, I urge you to begin. Remember, it's never too late to start doing what is right. **G**

\*Excerpt from *Parenting: From Surviving to Thriving*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), p. 38-42

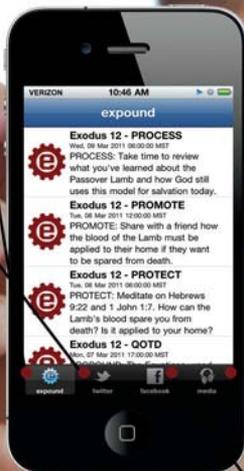


**Charles Swindoll** is an evangelical pastor, author, and educator. He is the founder of *Insight for Living*, a radio program heard on more than 2000 stations worldwide. Swindoll is the author of over thirty books and is the founder of Stonebriar Community Church.

# get the new **expound** app

receive daily discussion  
prompting questions

see **expound** tweets and  
submit your own



access the free  
**expound** media files

participate in the  
facebook discussions

**FREE DOWNLOAD**  
[expoundabq.org](http://expoundabq.org)



Access **expound** content on the go! This app brings the study to your device so you can take **expound** media with you and participate in conversations happening on Twitter and Facebook.

Available for iOS and Android.  
Download from  
[expoundabq.org](http://expoundabq.org)

“Better a little chiding than a great deal of heartbreak.”

– *William Shakespeare*

“One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.”

– *George Herbert*

“The family should be a closely knit group. The home should be a self-contained shelter of security; a kind of school where life’s basic lessons are taught; and a kind of church where God is honored; a place where wholesome recreation and simple pleasures are enjoyed.”

– *Billy Graham*

“I remember my mother’s prayers—and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.”

– *Abraham Lincoln*

“Kindness, gentleness, long-suffering, forbearance, patience, sympathy, a willingness to enter into childish troubles, a readiness to take part in childish joys—these are the cords by which a child may be led most easily—these are the clues you must follow if you would find the way to his heart.”

– *J.C. Ryle*



That word *home* always sounds like poetry to me. It rings like a peal of bells at a wedding, only more soft and sweet, and it chimes deeper into the ears of my heart. It does not matter whether it means thatched cottage or manor house, home is home, be it ever so homely, and there's no place on earth like it. I like to see the smoke out of my own chimney better than the fire on another man's hearth; there's something so beautiful in the way in which it curls up among the trees. Cold potatoes on my own table taste better than roast meat at my neighbour's, and the honeysuckle at my own door is the sweetest I ever smell.

Husbands should try to make home happy and holy. It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest, a bad man who makes his home wretched. Our house ought to be a little church, with holiness to the Lord over the door, but it ought never to be a prison where there is plenty of rule and order, but little love and no pleasure. Married life is not all sugar, but grace in the heart will keep away most of the sour. Godliness and love can make a man, like a bird in a hedge, sing among thorns and briars, and set others singing too. It should be the husband's pleasure to please his wife, and the wife's care to care for her husband. He is kind to himself who is kind to his wife.

Home is the grandest  
of all institutions

Wives should feel that home is their place and their kingdom, the happiness of which depends mostly upon them. Show me a loving husband, a worthy wife, and good children, and no pair of horses that ever flew along the road could take me in a year where I could see a more pleasing sight. Home is the grandest of all institutions. Talk about parliament, but give me a quiet little parlour. Boast about voting and the reform bill if you like, but I go in for weeding the little garden and teaching the children their hymns.

Franchise may be a very fine thing, but I should a good deal sooner get the freehold of my cottage, if I could find the money to buy it. Magna Charta I don't know much about, but if it means a quiet home for everybody, three cheers for it. D

Adapted from *The Complete John Ploughman* by C.H. Spurgeon



**Charles Haddon Spurgeon** (1834-1892) is known as "The Prince of Preachers." Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people in his lifetime—often up to 10 times each week at different places. His sermons have been translated into many languages.



# GET CONNECTED

## Skip's Devo Mail

Get encouragement sent straight to your inbox weekly!



[connectionradio.org](http://connectionradio.org)

## Facebook

[facebook.com/skipheitzig](https://facebook.com/skipheitzig)

## twitter

@skipheitzig

## You Tube™

[youtube.com/calvaryabq](https://youtube.com/calvaryabq)



[SKIP'S BLOG](#)

[SKIPHEITZIG.COM](http://SKIPHEITZIG.COM)



## National Radio Stations Arizona

Kingman KGPS-98.7 FM •  
Phoenix - CalvaryRadio.com

## Arkansas

De Queen KBPU-88.7 FM  
Hot Springs 88.7 FM

## California

Adelanto KPTG-101.5 FM  
Bakersfield KWVE-AM 660  
Big Bear Lake KWBB-105.5 FM  
Chico KQIP-107.1 FM  
Merced KGDM-105.5 FM  
Murrieta KRMT-88.9 FM  
Oxnard KOCC-101.5 FM  
San Luis Obispo KLF-AM 890  
Southern KWVE-107.9 FM

## Colorado

Aurora KXGR-89.7 FM

## Connecticut

Ledyard WCSE-100.1 FM  
Montville 94.9 FM • Niantic  
WNLN-107.3 FM

## Florida

Fort Lauderdale WREH-90.5 FM  
Miami WGES-90.9 FM

## Georgia

Albany 94.3 FM • Alma 89.1 FM  
Brunswick 90.3 FM • Buford  
89.7 FM • Columbus 107.7 FM  
Cussetta 91.1 FM • Douglas  
88.1 FM • Dublin 89.1 FM  
East Albany 97.7 FM • Eastman  
91.9 FM • Hawkinsville 91.7 FM  
Macon 105.9 FM • Marietta 89.7  
FM • McRae 88.1 FM • Savan-  
nah 90.7 FM • Vienna WHHR-  
92.1 FM • Warner Robbins 99.5  
FM • Waycross 88.1 FM

## Hawaii

Hilo KIHJ-103.7 FM • Honolulu  
KLHT-AM 1040 • Lihue, Kauai  
KHJC-88.9 FM

## Idaho

Burley 89.5 FM • Twin Falls  
107.7 FM

## Indiana

Crawfordsville WVRG-93.9 FM

## Iowa

Le Mars WVRG-89.1 FM Ot-

tumwa 91.5 FM • Sioux City 95.9 FM

## Kentucky

Bowling Green 88.5 FM • Lexington 91.7 FM  
Morehead 91.7 FM • South Lexington 94.9 FM

## Louisiana

Arabi 89.5 FM • Metairie 104.9 FM  
New Orleans 97.5 FM

## Michigan

Manistee 91.7 FM

## Minnesota

Brainerd 88.7 FM • Fergus Falls 89.3 FM  
Grand Rapids 89.7 FM

## Mississippi

Gulfport 89.7 FM

## Missouri

Joplin KITG-89.5 FM • Maryville 91.7 FM

## Montana

Great Falls 88.5 FM • Kalispell 91.3 FM  
Lewistown 90.3 FM

## Nebraska

Scottsbluff KNIF-107.9 FM

## Nevada

Lovelock 89.5 FM

## New Mexico

Albuquerque KNKT-107.1 FM • Clovis 90.7  
Mentmore (Gallup) 88.5 • Silver City KKSC-  
100.1 FM

## New York

Binghamton WIFF-90.1 FM / 104.9 FM  
Montauk WCSE-93.9 FM • Southampton  
WCSE-93.3 FM • Windsor WIFF-90.1 FM

## North Carolina

Black Mountain WMIT-106.9 FM • Charlotte  
WCRU-AM 960 • Raleigh/Durham • Winston  
Salem WTRU-AM 830

## Ohio

Zanesville WTLL-98.9

## Pennsylvania

Markleysburg WLOG-89.1 FM

## South Carolina

Charleston 90.3 FM; 104.9 FM; 105.1 FM  
Rock Hill AM 980; 105.7 FM

## South Dakota

Brookings 88.7 FM

## Tennessee

Benton WTSE-91.1 FM • Cleveland 94.9 FM  
Knoxville WIAM-101.1 FM • Lawrenceburg  
WZZX-88.5 FM

## Texas

Big Spring 89.7 FM • San Angelo KAGA-  
104.3 FM • San Angelo 91.5 FM

## Utah

Salt Lake City KUTR-AM 820

## Virginia

Lynchburg 95.3 FM • Madison Heights 88.7  
Pamplin 90.5 • Richmond WLES-AM 590

## Washington

Walla Walla 91.9 FM • Tri-Cities KBLD-91.7 FM

## Wyoming

Buffalo KSLW-99.5 FM • Gillette Laramie  
KLDW-90.5 FM

## International Radio Stations

### Belize

Belize City 100.5 FM • San Pedro Town  
101.3 FM • Spanish Outlook Belize 97.3

### New Zealand

Dannevirke 106.7 FM (LP) • Glenfield  
106.7 FM (LP) • Lower Hutt 106.8 FM (LP)  
Mangawhai 107 FM (LP) • Manurewa 107.3  
FM (LP) • Nelson 88.7 FM & 106.8 FM (LP)  
Rotorua 107 FM • Rolleston 107 FM  
Rotorua 106.7 FM (LP) • Tahuna 107 FM  
Te Awamutu 106.8 FM (LP) • Te Kuiti 107  
FM • Wellington 106.9 FM (LP) • Whangarei  
107.5 FM

### Sky Angel Radio

CSN International - Satellite 9762, IPTV 230  
Voice of Jerusalem - Satellite 9772, IPTV 238

### World Wide

HisChannel.com

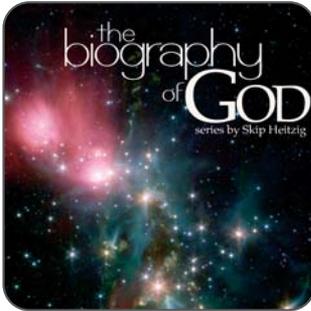
# COMING UP

on the Connection...

## Through Wednesday, April 26

"God's Top Ten"

Though cultures, languages, and lifestyles have changed dramatically since Moses received these words on Mount Sinai, they are surprisingly very applicable to our daily lives in the 21st century.



## Beginning Tuesday, April 27

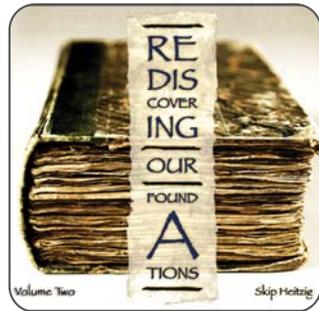
"The Biography of God"

The Biography of God gives an in-depth look at His character and nature, and delves into the theological and personal profile of our heavenly Father.

## Beginning Wednesday, June 8

"Rediscovering Our Foundations"

In this series, Skip Heitzig gets back to the roots of our faith, looking at what the Bible has to say about God, Christ, the Trinity, mankind, the church, heaven, and hell. Learn to stand on a firm foundation.



Check [connectionradio.org](http://connectionradio.org) for a station near you that airs *the Connection*.

Dear Pastor Skip,

I just wanted to let you know I came to Christ a couple years ago in the midst of a major trial. The trial has not ended. However, every morning from 7 until 7:30 am on my way to work, I am able to listen to your broadcast here in North Carolina. It has been a wonderful way to start every day...thanks for all you do and God bless.

— Paul Costa, North Carolina





# THE ROD

Loving discipline is a part of parental involvement. Proverbs 4:11 says, “I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.” But how do we get children on the right path? By *discipline*.

Proverbs 13:24 tells us that “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” Now this doesn’t mean blind brutality. It’s not an invitation for parents to beat their children. The idea is to *lovingly* correct their faults in order to set them on the right path.

And there’s a stronger warning in Proverbs 19:18: “Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not

set your heart on his destruction." The NIV renders that last part as "and do not be a willing party to his death." Get that: One who refuses to lovingly (you can underline that in red) discipline his child is one who desires the worst for his child. That parent isn't the child's friend—they're his enemy!

You may be thinking, *Oh, but I love him too much to discipline him!* Well then, the effect—in the end—will be as if you hated him! It is not love to withhold correction, or to overlook blatant disobedience. God loves us, yet His Word says, "For whom the Lord loves He chastens" (Hebrews 12:6).

Unfortunately, many people now believe that discipline is outdated; that you can just "negotiate" with your child. But some sociologists from Harvard University listed the primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency in children. Number one? Firm, fair, and consistent discipline.

There's a difference between corrective and preventative discipline. I think you need both. Corrective discipline is when you have to stop a behavior: You correct it immediately. Unfortunately, corrective discipline is the only kind that many parents know. They

know how to raise their hand, or their voice, but that's about it.

But there's also preventative discipline. This should start early on, through practices like praying with your kids, playing with them, and getting on their level so they can explain their world and their life to you. Then they'll see you as non-threatening.

One mistake parents make is threatening their kids. They don't follow through with discipline. Instead, they raise their voice and threaten again and again. When they finally act, it's in absolute frustration and anger. The message they're sending is: "You can get away

with a lot until I reach one certain decibel level. After that, you'd better look out!" My father and mother believed in promises, not threats. They would say something and if I disobeyed, they would follow through with the discipline.

According to a recent report, the primary cause for children living in foster homes is not divorce, money problems, or the death of their parents. The number one reason is the *disinterest* of parents. That's the lack of loving, preventative discipline. Let's discipline—but let's do it in love. 🔥

**AND DO NOT BE A WILLING PARTY TO HIS DEATH**

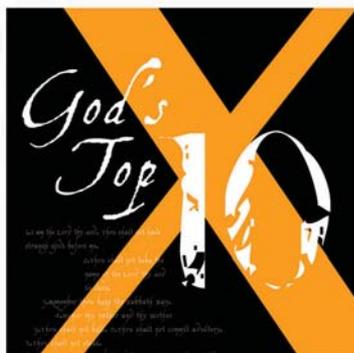
## THE MOST COMMON DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESSFUL PARENTING:

Children having good values	25%
Children being happy adults	25%
Children finding success in life	22%
Children being a good person	19%
Children graduating from college	17%
Children living independently	15%
Children having faith in God	9%

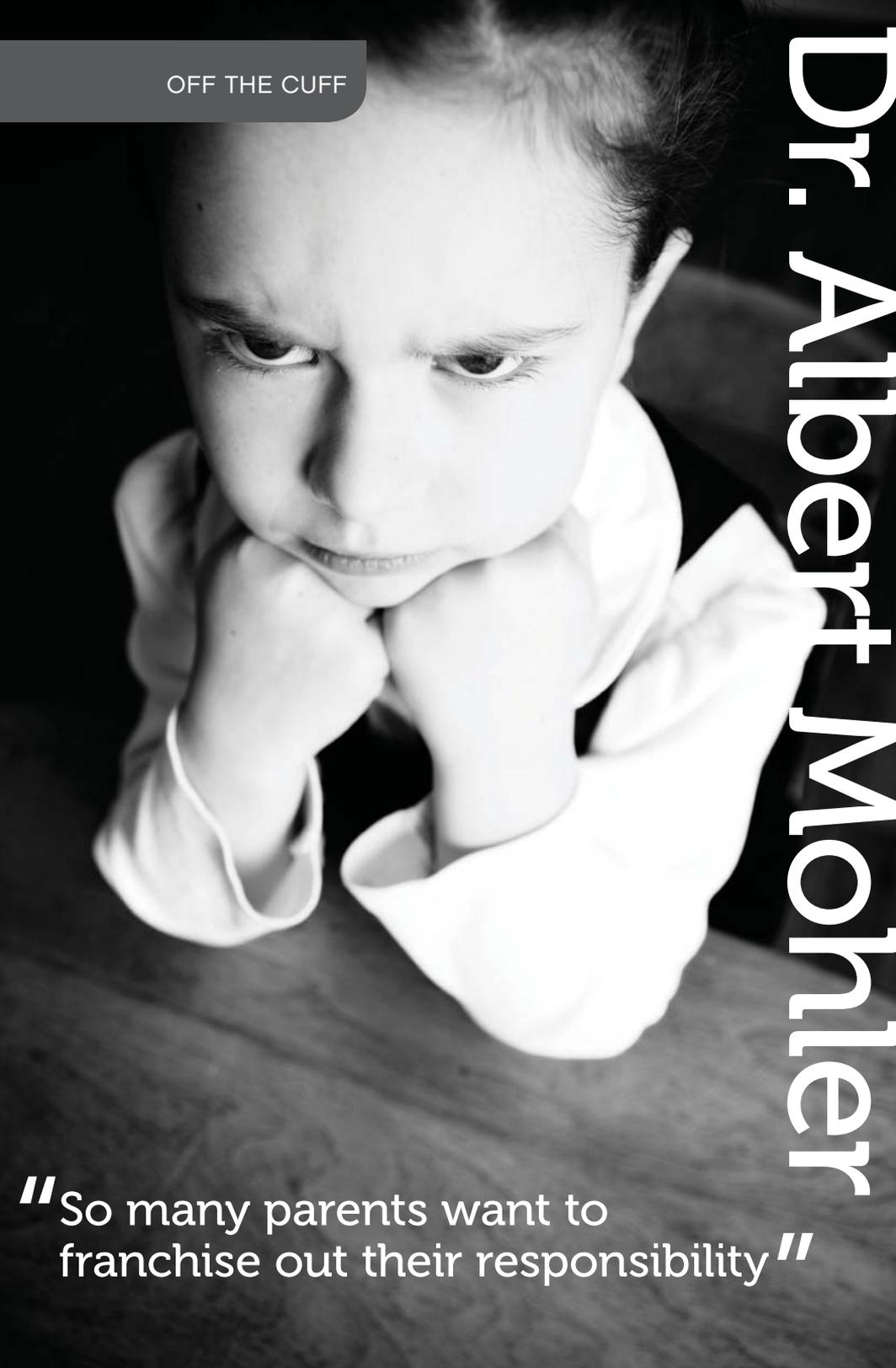
- Among born again Christians, 29% say faith is not among the most important influences on their parenting.
- Only 14% of all parents say they feel they are very familiar with what the Bible has to say about parenting—even though 77% identify themselves as Christians.
- Among parents who attend religious worship services weekly, 38% indicate they get no encouragement from...the Bible.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lifeway.com/article/168874/>

For thousands of years  
mankind has had God's  
list of Ten Commandments.



Skip Heitzig explores each of God's Top Ten in-depth and wraps up the series with a discussion on the Eleventh Commandment given by Jesus during His time on earth.



OFF THE CUFF

Dr. Albert Mohler

“So many parents want to franchise out their responsibility”

**Pastor Skip:** What are some things that ordinary believers, ordinary Christians, can do to be better equipped as representatives in this world for Christ?

**Dr. Albert Mohler:** One crucial thing is be sure you're in a Bible preaching, gospel loving church that stands for the right things, teaches the right things, and believes the right things. And then understand that it's not just the ministry of the church that is crucial here. In the Old Testament and in the New Testament, it's the ministry of parents raising children in the admonition of the Lord. The great incubus, the great womb of the faith, is in the family. And that's where mom and dad have to rise up and take responsibility to raise children because it's not just an intellectual battle, it's a battle of emotions and intuition and all the rest. Children seeing their parents modeling authentic Christianity and in the church, seeing church leaders and people they admire living out authentic Christianity—they're in an entirely different position from those that never had that experience.

**Pastor Skip:** Kids being raised in Christian homes spend a good chunk of their time in school, a smaller chunk of their time in Sunday school, but a larger chunk of their time at home. My question to you is: How can parents equip their kids with a kind of worldview apologetics? How can they learn to equip their children in the way they need to be equipped?

**Dr. Albert Mohler:** That is one of the greatest adventures of a parent's life. Mom and dad need to say, "OK, here's our mission. We're going to transform every moment of our life into a

teaching moment. When our children are awake, every moment is a teaching moment. When something happens in the news, we're going to talk about it and we're going to think about it in a Christian worldview perspective. When something happens and we have to deal with it as a family, we're going to deal with it as Christians and we're going to talk out loud about what happens. When someone dies, when a baby is born, when something happens in the life of a child, when something is seen on television, when we see a movie or a DVD together, we're going to talk about this from a Christian perspective." The book of Deuteronomy, in chapter six, puts it this way: that the parents of Israel are told, "You do this when you're going out and you're coming in." You teach your children. We just put that in a modern context and recognize, if the parents of Israel were told to do this in times of old, the stakes are even higher now for the parents of the church to do far better.

**Pastor Skip:** One of the most frustrating things I see as a pastor is parents who come after their kids are almost grown up. They've never really talked to their kids about any of these issues and now their kids want to leave the church. They really doubt their Christianity, and the parents, having not sown any seeds into that child's life, now come to the church, now come to the pastor, and say, "Fix my child."

**Dr. Albert Mohler:** Some studies are now indicating that upwards of 75% of all evangelical young persons between the ages of 19 and 25 leave and never come back to church. That's an indictment directly addressed to

us. It's a great travesty. So many parents want to franchise out their responsibility. You can't do that—you're the parent. You're the frontline preacher, teacher, judge, executioner, minister, and physician. You're the teacher. You are everything to your child. And for that reason, we need to pray that the parents of our churches will also be equipped. And that's where the church has a great responsibility. Something is missing, Skip. You have a Titus 2 kind of ministry that's just not going on. There should be older couples helping younger couples to do this. Older women helping younger mothers. Older men helping younger men to know how to do this. We've got men right now who are husbands and fathers who really didn't have fathers in the home. We need some older men to come alongside them and mentor them explicitly in the context of the local church. I think God's glory is all over that. ✎

\*Transcribed from an interview with Skip Heitzig on February's *First Friday* Connection radio program.



**Dr. Albert Mohler** is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a former nationwide radio show host and current member of the board of *Focus on the Family*. *Time* magazine called Mohler the "reigning intellectual of the evangelical movement in the U.S."

**Question:** *I've heard many statistics quoted by esteemed pastors who state that children who have only one believing parent are less likely to continue on in church as adults. Is this true? And if so, what can we do?*

Statistics like that are sobering. I once read that there are 12 million single parents in the US (three times more than in 1960), and that 28% of children are being raised by a single parent. Today, the numbers may be even higher. And there's a new phenomenon: Single dads are raising kids because of the increase in women walking out on their families.

If you're a single parent, I want to say that God has a special interest in you. Read this description of Him: "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation" (Psalm 68:5).

Parental involvement is more than saying, "You should go to church!" It's leading by example. We love to throw out Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." We treat that as if all we have to do is talk to the kids every now and then, throw out a few principles, and they'll be fine. But the term "train up" is broad. It doesn't just mean dictate educational values to them. It means to affect one's taste. It goes far beyond

pontificating. It's modeling godly behavior.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "For a man to train up a child in the way he should go, he must walk that way himself." Kids learn more by what they watch than by what they hear. If what they hear and what they see are worlds apart, that's a message—a message of hypocrisy.

The influence of one parent alone is significant. I know the ideal is two, but God can make one go a long way—further than you might think. There is nothing like the influence of a godly parent. Some of the most impressive kids can come from a single-parent family where the parent loves the Lord and influences the kids.

Not convinced? In the New Testament, a great biblical example is Timothy. Both his mother and grandmother were believers—but not his father. Yet their influence was such that Paul hailed him as unique among his followers (see Philippians 2:19-23).

A hundred years ago, single-parent families were due to the death of a parent—rather than

divorce or out-of-wedlock childbirths. But there were extended families so that if a parent was absent, another family member could step in. In today's mobile culture, what group ought to assume the responsibility for the family? Us. The church. We can provide assistance to single parents and mentoring for the children. We can be available to listen and support.

So do your best, avail yourself to the body of Christ, and entrust the rest to God. Let Him be your child's heavenly Father. Allow His Word to mentor your child. Remember His faithfulness: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). 



*It goes far beyond  
pontificating. It's  
modeling godly  
behavior.*

1. Train [children] in the way they should go, and not in the way that they would.
2. Train up your [children] with all tenderness, affection, and patience. I do not mean that you are to spoil [them], but I do mean that you should let [them] see that you love [them].
3. Train your children with an abiding persuasion in your mind that much depends upon you.
4. Train with this thought continually before your eyes — that the soul of your child is the first thing to be considered.
5. Train your children [in] knowledge of the Bible.
6. Train them in the habit of prayer.
7. Train them in habits of diligence and regularity about public means of grace.
8. Train them to have faith.
9. Train them to be obedient.
10. Train them in the habit of always speaking the truth.
11. Train them in the habit of always redeeming the time.
12. Train them with a constant fear of over-indulgence.
13. Train them remembering continually how God trains His children.
14. Train them remembering continually the influence of your own example.
15. Train them remembering continually the power of sin.
16. Train them remembering continually the promises of Scripture.
17. Train them, lastly, with continual prayer for a blessing on all you do.

— J.C. Ryle

Adapted from  
"The Duties of Parents"



# DAILY DEVO

through the Bible with Skip Heitzig

## APRIL 1

**Read:** 1 Kings 18:17-40

**Reflect:** *Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"*

(1 Kings 18:17)

**Respond:** "Like Elijah, we can have faith that whatever God commands us to do, He will provide what we need to carry it through."

**Return:** 1 Kings 18:41-46

## APRIL 2

**Read:** 1 Kings 19:1-18

**Reflect:** *Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time"* (1 Kings 19:2).

**Respond:** "Rejoice at God's control over the turbulence of this world."

**Return:** 1 Kings 19:19-22:53

## APRIL 3

**Read:** 2 Kings 1:1-3

**Reflect:** *But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"* (2 Kings 1:3)

**Respond:** "Our God is a pursuing God, constantly reaching out to people until He is forced to judge them."

**Return:** 2 Kings 1:4

## APRIL 4

**Read:** 2 Kings 1:5-12

**Reflect:** *So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a*

*leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite"* (2 Kings 1:8).

**Respond:** "Each of us needs to be faithful to Jesus Christ and daily prepare for His return, which is a certainty."

**Return:** 2 Kings 1:13-3:27

## APRIL 5

**Read:** 2 Kings 4:1-37

**Reflect:** *Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me* (2 Kings 4:27).

**Respond:** "We should expect God to speak to us by His Spirit and understand that the Lord does reveal His plans for us when the time is right."

**Return:** 2 Kings 4:38-44

## APRIL 6

**Read:** 2 Kings 5:1-14

**Reflect:** *Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?"* So he turned and went away in a rage (2 Kings 5:12).

**Respond:** "We tend to have preconceived ideas about how God does or should work in our lives. Often, we're wrong."

**Return:** 2 Kings 5:15-10:36

## APRIL 7

**Read:** 2 Kings 11:1-12

**Reflect:** *When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she*

*arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed* (2 Kings 11:1-2).

**Respond:** "Pause and thank God for His unfailing promises."

**Return:** 2 Kings 11:13-21

## APRIL 8

**Read:** 2 Kings 12:1-16

**Reflect:** *In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him* (2 Kings 12:1-2).

**Respond:** "Jesus never said, 'Follow My people.' He said, 'Follow Me!'"

**Return:** 2 Kings 12:17-14:22

## APRIL 9

**Read:** 2 Kings 14:23-25

**Reflect:** *He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher* (2 Kings 14:25).

**Respond:** "God is trustworthy and has ensured that what you find between the Bible's covers is trustworthy as well

and something He wants you to know.”

**Return:** 2 Kings 14:26-29

### **APRIL 10**

**Read:** 2 Kings 15:1-16:20

**Reflect:** *In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king (2 Kings 15:1).*

**Respond:** “Turn to a friend, your spouse, or someone else who knows you well, and ask that person to help you honestly identify your strengths and weaknesses.”

**Return:** 2 Kings 17:1-41

### **APRIL 11**

**Read:** 2 Kings 18:1-16

**Reflect:** *He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan (2 Kings 18:4)*

**Respond:** “Our past should be a guidepost, but never a hitching post.”

**Return:** 2 Kings 18:17-24:9

### **APRIL 12**

**Read:** 2 Kings 24:10-25:7

**Reflect:** *Now it came to pass in the ninth year of the reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around (2 Kings 25:1).*

**Respond:** “Who is the king of your heart and life?”

**Return:** 2 Kings 25:8-30

### **APRIL 13**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 1:1-34

**Reflect:** *These are their genealogies (1 Chronicles 1:29).*

**Respond:** “Keep a journal in which you note observations about your life and record

things God is teaching you.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 1:35-2:55

### **APRIL 14**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 3:1-24

**Reflect:** *Now these were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelites; the second, Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelites (1 Chronicles 3:1).*

**Respond:** “Luke 10:20 says, ‘Rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.’”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 4:1-10:14

### **APRIL 15**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 11:1-5

**Reflect:** *Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel (1 Chronicles 11:3).*

**Respond:** “David certainly had his flaws, but his heart was sensitive toward the Lord.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 11:6-8

### **APRIL 16**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 11:9-19

**Reflect:** *So David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him (1 Chronicles 11:9).*

**Respond:** “This book is written with a divine editorial.

The writer understands that history is one thing but God’s story is another.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 11:20-13:14

### **APRIL 17**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 14:1-12

**Reflect:** *And David inquired of God, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?” The Lord said to him, “Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand” (1 Chronicles 14:10).*

**Respond:** “God wants us to unburden our hearts with

our pleasures, our pains, our likes, and our dislikes.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 14:13-16:43

### **APRIL 18**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 17:1-5

**Reflect:** *Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tent curtains (1 Chronicles 17:1).*

**Respond:** “Whatever you place in God’s hands, He will bless and use for His work.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 17:6-10

### **APRIL 19**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 17:11-27

**Reflect:** *And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever (1 Chronicles 17:14).*

**Respond:** “Let’s celebrate God’s faithful fulfillment of His promise to David through Jesus Christ.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 18:1-29:19

### **APRIL 20**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 29:20-28

**Reflect:** *So [David] died in a good old age (1 Chronicles 29:28).*

**Respond:** “The promises of God are not bound by time. They last forever.”

**Return:** 1 Chronicles 29:29-30

### **APRIL 21**

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 1:1-10

**Reflect:** *Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly (2 Chronicles 1:1).*

**Respond:** “God’s presence in Solomon’s life made Solomon a powerful person.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 1:11-2:18

### **APRIL 22**

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 3:1-17

**Reflect:** *Now Solomon began*

to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (2 Chronicles 3:1).

**Respond:** “In the New Testament, those who belong to Christ are called the temple of God.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 4:1-11:23

## APRIL 23

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 12:1-12

**Reflect:** Now when the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, saying, “They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance. My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak” (2 Chronicles 12:7).

**Respond:** “God will honor your commitment to living in humility.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 12:13-13:22

## APRIL 24

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 14:1-12

**Reflect:** Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God (2 Chronicles 14:2).

**Respond:** “What is the ever-seeing eye of the Lord seeing as He looks at the details of your life?”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 14:13-16:14

## APRIL 25

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 17:1-11

**Reflect:** [Jehoshaphat] sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel (2 Chronicles 17:4).

**Respond:** “The righteous person understands that saying no enables him to say yes to the things of the Lord.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 17:12-20:19

## APRIL 26

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 20:20-30

**Reflect:** Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated (2 Chronicles 20:22).

**Respond:** “Part of the preparation for spiritual warfare is understanding our position in Christ and being willing to wait on the Lord for victory.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 20:31-31:21

## APRIL 27

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 32:1-15

**Reflect:** “Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles” And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah (2 Chronicles 32:7-8).

**Respond:** “Encouragement is one of the strongest tools in the Christian’s tool bag.”

**Return:** 2 Chronicles 32:16-35:27

## APRIL 28

**Read:** 2 Chronicles 36:1-23

**Reflect:** Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up! (2 Chronicles 36:23)

**Respond:** “When Jesus came to earth, it was better than having the Jerusalem temple with God’s presence.”

**Return:** Ezra 1-2:54

## APRIL 29

**Read:** Ezra 2:55-65

**Reflect:** The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers (Ezra 2:64-65).

**Respond:** “When you begin to feel a little too comfortable where you are, ask the Lord to fill you with increased spiritual passion.”

**Return:** Ezra 2:65-70

## APRIL 30

**Read:** Ezra 3:1-13

**Reflect:** But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundations of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy (Ezra 3:12).

**Respond:** “It is hard to move forward when you are looking backward.”

**Return:** Ezra 4:1-24

## MAY 1

**Read:** Ezra 5:1-17

**Reflect:** Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them (Ezra 5:1).

**Respond:** “Give to God’s servants that one extra degree, and you’ll be cheering them on to continue the work of God.”

**Return:** Ezra 6:1-22

## MAY 2

**Read:** Ezra 7:1-27

**Reflect:** This Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him (Ezra 7:6).

**Respond:** “If God decides something needs to happen,

no one—not even a king—can thwart that plan.”

**Return:** Ezra 8:1-9:15

### **MAY 3**

**Read:** Ezra 10:1-15

**Reflect:** *Now while Ezra was praying and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly (Ezra 10:1).*

**Respond:** “Perhaps the greatest need in the church today is for genuine mourning, for tears of confession, and for repentance over our sins.”

**Return:** Ezra 10:16-44

### **MAY 4**

**Read:** Nehemiah 1:1-5

**Reflect:** *Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:2)*

**Respond:** “You never know how God will use a conversation in your life.”

**Return:** Nehemiah 1:6-11

### **MAY 5**

**Read:** Nehemiah 2:1-16

**Reflect:** *Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it” (Nehemiah 2:4-5).*

**Respond:** “It’s the heartfelt intensity of prayer that matters.”

**Return:** Nehemiah 2:17-20

### **MAY 6**

**Read:** Nehemiah 3:1-12

**Reflect:** *Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and*

*built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.*

*Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built (Nehemiah 3:1-2).*

**Respond:** “Take your place ‘next to’ your brothers and sisters, and get involved in the work of God’s kingdom.”

**Return:** Nehemiah 3:13-32

### **MAY 7**

**Read:** Nehemiah 4:1-15

**Reflect:** *But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews (Nehemiah 4:1).*

**Respond:** “If you are doing God’s will, you can expect an attack.”

**Return:** Nehemiah 4:16-7:73

### **MAY 8**

**Read:** Nehemiah 8:1-12

**Reflect:** *So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading (Nehemiah 8:8).*

**Respond:** “History has never seen a genuine revival that did not have the Word of God at its core.”

**Return:** Nehemiah 8:13-13:31

### **MAY 9**

**Read:** Esther 1:1-4:17

**Reflect:** *For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14)*

**Respond:** “The next time you find yourself wondering, Why am I here? ask God to increase your awareness of

how He is working in your life.”

**Return:** Esther 5:1-10:3

### **MAY 10**

**Read:** Job 1:1-22

**Reflect:** *Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped (Job 1:20).*

**Respond:** “Pain moves us in one of two directions: toward God or away from God.”

**Return:** Job 2:1-2

### **MAY 11**

**Read:** Job 2:3-3:26

**Reflect:** *Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause” (Job 2:3).*

**Respond:** “If God allows us to go through the fire of Satan’s attack, He will still have His eye on us and His finger on the thermostat.”

**Return:** Job 4:1-15:35

### **MAY 12**

**Read:** Job 16:1-17:16

**Reflect:** *I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all! (Job 16:2)*

**Respond:** “If you want to be a genuine and effective comforter, be less like Job’s ‘friends’ and more like Jesus.”

**Return:** Job 18:1-37:24

### **MAY 13**

**Read:** Job 38:1-41

**Reflect:** *Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding (Job 38:3-4).*

**Respond:** “Don’t let your inability to understand God’s ways shake your faith in God’s love.”

**Return:** Job 39:1-42:17

## **MAY 14**

**Read:** Psalm 1:1-3

**Reflect:** *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful* (Psalm 1:1).

**Respond:** “The happy person declines ungodly advice and unrighteous companions but delights in God’s truth.”

**Return:** Psalm 1:4-2:3

## **MAY 15**

**Read:** Psalm 2:4-12

**Reflect:** *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision* (Psalm 2:4).

**Respond:** “The sovereign Lord remains in control.”

**Return:** Psalm 3:1-22:31

## **MAY 16**

**Read:** Psalm 23:1-6

**Reflect:** *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want* (Psalm 23:1).

**Respond:** “[David] knew that the quality of life for sheep was completely dependent on the characteristics of the shepherd.”

**Return:** Psalm 24:1-50:23

## **MAY 17**

**Read:** Psalm 51:1-19

**Reflect:** *Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight* (Psalm 51:4).

**Respond:** “Find a few quiet moments to search your heart and ask God to reveal the sin in your life.”

**Return:** Psalm 52:1-72:20

## **MAY 18**

**Read:** Psalm 73:1-28

**Reflect:** *When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end* (Psalm 73:16-17).

**Respond:** “A grateful heart...

acts like a magnet, making the particles of God’s blessing easier to see.”

**Return:** Psalm 74:1-89:52

## **MAY 19**

**Read:** Psalm 90:1-17

**Reflect:** *So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom* (Psalm 90:12).

**Respond:** “There is great wisdom in remembering that counting each day isn’t as important as making each day count.”

**Return:** Psalm 91:1-149:9

## **MAY 20**

**Read:** Psalm 150:1-6

**Reflect:** *Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!* (Psalm 150:5-6)

**Respond:** “For what should we praise God? For who He is and what He does.”

**Return:** Proverbs 1:1-6

## **MAY 21**

**Read:** Proverbs 1:7-19

**Reflect:** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction* (Proverbs 1:7).

**Respond:** “When we have this reverential ‘fear’ of God, we begin to live wisely and well.”

**Return:** Proverbs 1:20-33

## **MAY 22**

**Read:** Proverbs 2:1-11

**Reflect:** *Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord* (Proverbs 2:3-5).

**Respond:** “Look for passion in your pursuit of God.”

**Return:** Proverbs 2:12-22

## **MAY 23**

**Read:** Proverbs 3:1-12

**Reflect:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding* (Proverbs 3:5).

**Respond:** “Each of us as individuals needs to decide where we place our own trust.”

**Return:** Proverbs 3:13-35

## **MAY 24**

**Read:** Proverbs 4:1-27

**Reflect:** *Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many* (Proverbs 4:10).

**Respond:** “King Solomon’s method was for parents to train their children with both instruction and practical living.”

**Return:** Proverbs 5:1-23

## **MAY 25**

**Read:** Proverbs 6:1-12:28

**Reflect:** *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler* (Proverbs 6:10-11).

**Respond:** “One of the ways our lives can reflect the Lord whom we serve is to let excellence be the hallmark of our work.”

**Return:** Proverbs 13:1-16:15

## **MAY 26**

**Read:** Proverbs 16:16-23:35

**Reflect:** *Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones* (Proverbs 16:24).

**Respond:** “Words contain incredible power to delight or to destroy, to poison or to praise.”

**Return:** Proverbs 24:1-30:33

## **MAY 27**

**Read:** Proverbs 31:1-31

**Reflect:** *Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies* (Proverbs 31:10).

**Respond:** “Unfortunately, men end up searching for virtual women instead of virtuous women.”

**Return:** Ecclesiastes 1:1

## MAY 28

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 1:2-18

**Reflect:** “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

**Respond:** “Apart from God’s Son, it’s impossible to understand our existence.”

**Return:** Ecclesiastes 2:1-4:16

## MAY 29

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 5:1-7:29

**Reflect:** *Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil...For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity* (Ecclesiastes 5:1, 7).

**Respond:** “Flowery speech may impress the person who is praying, but it makes little if any impression on God.”

**Return:** Ecclesiastes 8:1-11:10

## MAY 30

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

**Reflect:** *Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”* (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

**Respond:** “Trying to find satisfaction and meaning in what the world offers is like trying to quench your thirst by drinking seawater.”

**Return:** Song of Solomon 1:1-17

## MAY 31

**Read:** Song of Solomon 2:1-17

**Reflect:** *He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love* (Song of Solomon 2:4).

**Respond:** “If you are married, how might you demonstrate love for your spouse in tangible and God-honoring ways?”

**Return:** Song of Solomon 3:1-4:16

## JUNE 1

**Read:** Song of Solomon 5:1-16

**Reflect:** *I have taken off my robe; how can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; how can I defile them?* (Song of Solomon 5:3)

**Respond:** “This is a beautiful picture of a couple who desire to restore their relationship rather than prove they are right.”

**Return:** Song of Solomon 6:1-13

## JUNE 2

**Read:** Song of Solomon 7:1-13

**Reflect:** *How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights!* (Song of Solomon 7:6)

**Respond:** “The fire of passion between these two lovers is still burning bright because the flame of commitment is still present.”

**Return:** Song of Solomon 8:1-14

## JUNE 3

**Read:** Isaiah 1:1-3:26

**Reflect:** “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

**Respond:** “God has made a deal with the world that is too good to pass up. Do you know someone you should talk to today to present God’s offer of salvation?”

**Return:** Isaiah 4:1-5:30

## JUNE 4

**Read:** Isaiah 6:1-8:22

**Reflect:** *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple* (Isaiah 6:1).

**Respond:** “While the people were asking, ‘Who will lead us? Who will sit on the throne?’ Isaiah focused his eyes on the Lord.”

**Return:** Isaiah 9:1-10:34

## JUNE 5

**Read:** Isaiah 11:1-20:6

**Reflect:** *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots* (Isaiah 11:1).

**Respond:** “The fulfillment of Isaiah’s messianic prophecies began with Christ’s birth, but its completion will be spread over a long period of time.”

**Return:** Isaiah 21:1-36:22

## JUNE 6

**Read:** Isaiah 37:1-43:28

**Reflect:** *Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead* (Isaiah 37:36).

**Respond:** “Never underestimate the power of the angels—and more important, the God whom they serve.”

**Return:** Isaiah 44:1-52:15

## JUNE 7

**Read:** Isaiah 53:1-60:22

**Reflect:** *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed* (Isaiah 53:5).

**Respond:** “The Son of God became a man so men could become sons of God.”

**Return:** Isaiah 61:1-66:24

## JUNE 8

**Read:** Jeremiah 1:1-4:31

**Reflect:** *Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth”* (Jeremiah 1:6).

**Respond:** “When God chooses foolish and weak things, the Lord receives glory from their accomplishments.”

**Return:** Jeremiah 5:1-8:22

## JUNE 9

**Read:** Jeremiah 9:1-13:27

**Reflect:** *Oh, that my head*

were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! (Jeremiah 9:1)

**Respond:** “We can learn from the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, how to have a heart of compassion for our world.”  
**Return:** Jeremiah 14:1-17:27

## JUNE 10

**Read:** Jeremiah 18:1-23:40

**Reflect:** “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words” (Jeremiah 18:2).

**Respond:** “It may hurt for God’s firm hand to push your life into shape, but it’s better than being broken.”

**Return:** Jeremiah 24:1-28:17

## JUNE 11

**Read:** Jeremiah 29:1-40:16

**Reflect:** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Respond:** “In our moments of crisis, we need to hold on to God’s Word with its promises, admonitions, and rebukes.”

**Return:** Jeremiah 41:1-52:34

## JUNE 12

**Read:** Lamentations 1:1-22

**Reflect:** “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has been brought on me, which the Lord has inflicted in the day of His fierce anger” (Lamentations 1:12).

**Respond:** “Through this book, the prophet seems to invite us to express our sorrow for the sin in our world as well.”

**Return:** Lamentations 2:1-22

## JUNE 13

**Read:** Lamentations 3:1-25

**Reflect:** Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail

not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23).

**Respond:** “Jeremiah’s words, ‘Great is His faithfulness,’ affirm the bedrock of our faith.”

**Return:** Lamentations 3:26-39

## JUNE 14

**Read:** Lamentations 3:40-5:22

**Reflect:** Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord (Lamentations 3:40).

**Respond:** “Affliction in a believer’s life is always under the sovereign control of a loving God.”

**Return:** Ezekiel 1:1-2:10

## JUNE 15

**Read:** Ezekiel 3:1-6:14

**Reflect:** “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me” (Ezekiel 3:17).

**Respond:** “We still need watchmen in our world today who will cry out against the repercussions of a godless worldview.”

**Return:** Ezekiel 7:1-10:22

## JUNE 16

**Read:** Ezekiel 11:1-20:49

**Reflect:** Then the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said to me, “Speak! Thus says the Lord: “Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind” (Ezekiel 11:5).

**Respond:** “Be aware of God’s presence throughout your day, whether people can see you or not.”

**Return:** Ezekiel 21:1-27:36

## JUNE 17

**Read:** Ezekiel 28:1-32:32

**Reflect:** “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

You were in Eden, the garden of God” (Ezekiel 28:12-13).

**Respond:** “Instead of focusing on Satan, we need to be aware of his existence but concentrate on Jesus.”

**Return:** Ezekiel 33:1-36:38

## JUNE 18

**Read:** Ezekiel 37:1-42:20

**Reflect:** Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’” (Ezekiel 37:4)

**Respond:** “God is able to revive dry bones.”

**Return:** Ezekiel 43:1-48:35

## JUNE 19

**Read:** Daniel 1:1-1:10

**Reflect:** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself (Daniel 1:8).

**Respond:** “Your reputation is what you are on the outside; your character is what you are when no one is looking.”

**Return:** Daniel 1:11-1:21

## JUNE 20

**Read:** Daniel 2:1-45

**Reflect:** Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure (Daniel 2:45).

**Respond:** “On that day that Jesus Christ returns, in fact, all of man’s kingdoms will come to a screeching halt.”

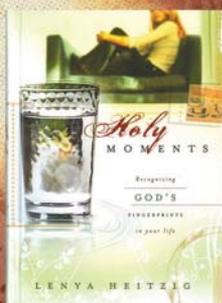
**Return:** Daniel 2:46-3:7

## JUNE 21

**Read:** Daniel 3:8-5:31

**Reflect:** “Look!” he answered,





# Make The Most Of Every MOMENT

HOLY MOMENTS will help  
you recognize God's  
fingerprints in your life

*"It is often difficult to recognize God in the mundane, and yet that is where He often meets us. My friend, Lenya Heitzig, gives us practical, concrete ways that we can cultivate the holy in ordinary, turning it into the extraordinary."*

**- Ruth Graham (President, Ruth Graham and Friends)**

On Sale Now

\$9

1.800.922.1888

[connectionradio.org](http://connectionradio.org)

Follow Skip on Twitter  
[twitter.com/skipheitzig](https://twitter.com/skipheitzig)



Like us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/connectionmagazine](https://facebook.com/connectionmagazine)



Check out our other websites!

[connectionradio.org](https://connectionradio.org)

[connectiontv.org](https://connectiontv.org)

[skipheitzig.com](https://skipheitzig.com)

[m88.org](https://m88.org)

[knkt.com](https://knkt.com)

## Church'd Comics



Old Testament Hebrew mothers often gave their children literal names in hopes their lives would fulfill the meaning.

Illustration: Dominic Sedillo

**If** you have **not** already received Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior—do it now. Please don't wait. With a sincere and repentant heart, pray:

*"Father, I know I am a sinner. I repent of my sin, and turn away from it. I turn to Jesus. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, saving all who believe in Him. Fill me with Your Spirit and come into my life. Transform me. Make me into a new creation. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen."*

If you prayed this prayer, please contact Calvary of Albuquerque: 505.344.0880  
**There are people waiting to hear from you!**

n y n b d e f r e p r o o f e n e a  
 m s d i i s e c d e u l a v i t f i  
 r n o e s b n y s l e i l n s l t  
 i e r e c e l a l i y n u e n w r n  
 f n e c i n r e w l o m m a g o t r  
 f a w t p p e t l i u h p n n r f s  
 a o a e l m u u t c s f v a i r i s  
 r p r e i u f c l i h e r i t a g e  
 w e d b n r e a n f y i w a n h w n  
 g n i r e f f u s g n o l a e e y d  
 e t f d f a p c r s i i j d r f v n  
 e c n a t i r e h n i a r t a a a i  
 i o p h i i h a t e a g f o p e l k  
 w t e h p t t e n d e r n e s s u l  
 f r n t o n h i b c e x a m p l e o  
 e a u m f m s s e n e l t n e g u v  
 t r o u b l e s e o b e d i e n c e  
 e u q i n u d f o n o s r i d e t t

AFFECTION  
 AFFIRM  
 ARROWS  
 ASSIGNMENT  
 BIBLE  
 CHILD  
 DISCIPLINE  
 EXAMPLE  
 FAITH  
 FATHER  
 FEARFULLY

FORBEARANCE  
 GENTLENESS  
 GIFT  
 HERITAGE  
 HOME  
 INFLUENCE  
 INHERITANCE  
 JOY  
 KINDNESS  
 LONGSUFFERING  
 LOVE

MOTHER  
 OBEDIENCE  
 PARENTING  
 PATIENCE  
 PRAYER  
 PUNISHMENT  
 REPROOF  
 REWARD  
 ROD  
 SCRIPTURE  
 SIN

SYMPATHY  
 TENDERNESS  
 TRAIN  
 TROUBLES  
 UNIQUE  
 VALUE  
 VALUED  
 WILL  
 WONDERFULLY

NEXT ISSUE

Featuring Guest **NORMAN GEISLER**

# REVELATION



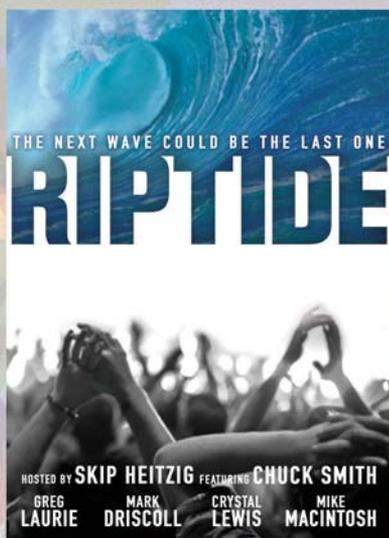
# A CHOSEN GENERATION

The new feature-length documentary film *Riptide* tells the story of this supernatural work of God, using the testimonies of people at the center of the Jesus Movement.

**60-Minute Documentary**

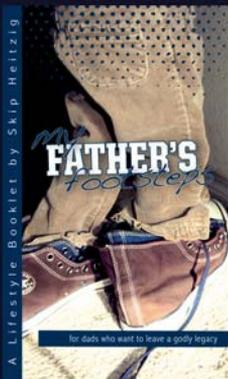
**Special Features with  
Chuck Smith and Greg Laurie  
Hosted by Skip Heitzig**

**\$15**



1.800.922.1888 | CONNECTIONRADIO.ORG

a Lifestyle Booklet by Skip Heitzig



AVAILABLE NOW

# my FATHER'S footsteps

for dads who want to  
leave a **godly** legacy

get your copy today!  
1.800.922.1888 or visit [connectionradio.org](http://connectionradio.org)