Who IS Q	Jod?
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It has been said that "one of the most tremendous callings before us is to make God irresistable to the next generation." There is no better way than to introduce them to GOD!

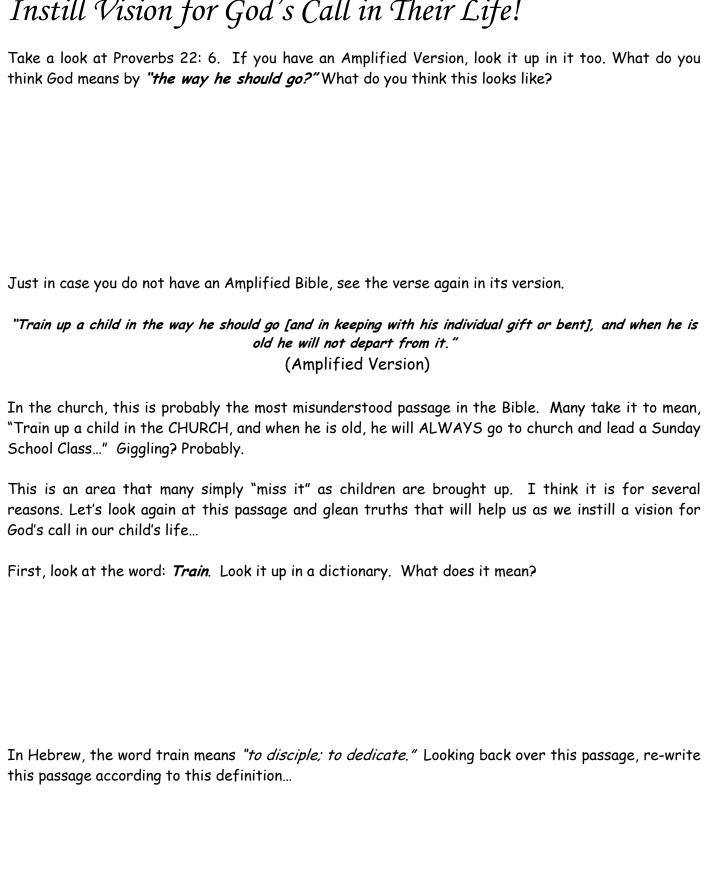
Earlier in this study, we looked at the names of God. Which of the names of God have you experienced as you have walked in through your life? Which aspects of His character do you know? These are the lessons that you are to impress upon your children!

Have you let your child "into" your life enough that they SEE God and how He works in your life? Can you think of some times that you have been able to share Him and what He has done in your life as you have gone along the way with your children?

What are you going through today? Who IS God today in your life? What name (or characteristic) of God do you need today?

Are you sharing enough of your life with your children that they are getting to know God along with you?
What are some practical things that you have gleaned from the verses above that you can do to lead your little ones to God?
You may be just now getting to know your Lord. That is OK! He will show you the most important lessons for your child. You may have one life message of His faithfulness in one area over and over. That is OK! That is the message that you are to impress upon your children.
Do you have a hurting child? Do you have a curious child? Do you have a child surrendered to God? Wherever you are Whatever your circumstance Lead your little ones to the Father. Instill a passion for Him. Let him minister to the needs of your child. You can trust Him to be ALL they will ever need!

Instill Vision for God's Call in Their Life!



Does this give you a strategic plan?
Take a look at the Amplified Version again. What do you think is meant by the phrase "in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent]?"
God's focus is individual for each child. He has an individual plan and individual way that each child is supposed to go. His plan focuses on each child's individual gifts and bents. How is this different from the training that most children have?
Our children need desperately to know what they are good at, what their specific gifts are, how to use those gifts for God's glory, and a glimmer of God's vision for them. If we can train them in this way, <i>The Way</i> they should go, then when they are old, they will not depart from it! We do this as we get to KNOW our children's gifts, true talents, who they are, and where the Lord is taking them!

Encourage	Them	in This	Vision!

Lindurage Them in This Vision:
Yes! Impress THIS VISION upon them! But how? Take a look at Habakkuk 2:2. How does it say we can best impress a vision that God has for the lives of our children upon their hearts?
Have you recorded the things that God has given you as you have parented your children?
What about personal verses God has "made yours?"
Have you preserved them for your children?
Have you recorded insights that you have seen along the way about their gifts, talents, and bents?
How are you practically encouraging your children in "the way they should go?" How can you do so in the future?

Finding God's Vision for Our Children...

Maybe this is something completely new for you. You have never even considered parenting from this perspective. You desperately want to know the vision that God has for your children. My beloved friend, you can go to God for His vision! He is easy! He clarifies in Romans 12: 1-2 how we may know His exact will and His exact way! Take a peek at that passage now (If you have an Amplified Bible, it is a super translation of this passage!). How does it say that we can learn God's perfect will for us (and our children)?

Want a vision for your children? This verse tells us how...

- Present ourselves to God as a complete, living sacrifice....meaning that all we have and all we do must be completely yielded, dedicated, and committed to Him and His Way! This means all that we are: our plans...ambitions...ideas...methods... techniques...fears...concerns...all must be presented to God as a living sacrifice. Think back to the story of Abraham. Remember how God asked him to sacrifice his best, his Isaac, as an act of worship? You may think that to be an odd requirement, but God cannot allow us to have anything that becomes more precious to us than worshipping Him. Abraham obediently took Isaac up to the mountain. I believe that Abraham knew that his heart was committed completely to God, but this was the test to see just how committed he really was. God asked him to present his best as his sacrifice, his Isaac. Here, we find that if we are desiring to know the good, acceptable, perfect will of God for ourselves or our children, we must first obediently present ourselves as a complete, living sacrifice. There may be things in our lives that must be burnt up as a sacrifice for God's best OR we may find that what we brought to sacrifice before the Lord was acceptable in His sight and can return home with us. However, the key is not in what God does with our sacrifice, it is in our heart coming before Him daily, presenting ourselves and all that we have before His throne!
- Forsake the world's standards, the world's ways, and the world's bondage...meaning that as we search for God's standards, God's Way, and we find God's freedom. There is great freedom in God's design for womanhood. Only in God's design will we find direction for the path our children are to walk upon!
- Be transformed by the daily renewal of your mind...meaning that if you want a changed life, it begins as you sit at the feet of Jesus. As you daily immerse yourself in His Word, you will begin to be transformed. You will soon have different priorities...different beliefs...different ambitions...and soon, you will be able to prove what is good, acceptable, and perfectly in the will of God. If we never experience this transformation, we will always find ourselves burdened under a yoke of bondage. We will always find ourselves looking in all the wrong places for direction, approval, meaning, purpose, and rest!

As we humbly go to God for purification, we will find His vision for our children and minister to their hearts as we share that vision day by day!

Minister to Them by SPEAKING the Vision

Another way that we "train up" our children in the way they should go is directly related to our mouth! The words that we speak over our children are very important. Words are important because there is power in words. Words can build up, inspire, praise, give direction, encourage, exhort, AND minister to the heart of our children! Can you think of a time when your parents built you up with their words? How did it impact your life?

Likewise, we must be **very careful** about words because they also have the power to criticize, destroy, dishearten, exasperate, frustrate, lead astray, abuse, and break the heart of your child. We must beware of what we say *to* our children and *about* our children. Can you think of a time when your parents hurt you with their words? How did it impact your life?

Yes. Words have power. Power to build up. Power to tear down. Power to minister to our children. Power to break the hearts of our children. So, how can we minister to our children with our words? Can you think of practical ways that you can minister to your children with words AND encourage them in the way they should go with your words? List your thoughts below...

There are very practical ways that we can encourage them through our words. Here are a few of my thoughts...

1. Being Careful with Our Words... Words, ah...the power of words! Beware of negative words. Give your children far more encouragement than criticism. Encouragement! Smiles! Hugs! Giggles! Fun! What are some ways you can be more encouraging with your words?

2. Being Careful With Our Spirit...Yes, OUR spirit. We can say all the right things...do all the right things...yet, still communicate to them thoughts and beliefs about them that we do not want for them to ever know because we do not like our thoughts and beliefs ourselves! What is inside WILL come out in little ways through our words, even if they are not directly spoken to our children!

Watch that spirit of...

"Well, that is just--- that we are talking about."

"He is just too --- for us to let him..."

"He is just too irresponsible for..."

Often, what WE believe of our children, they will become! Children are broken time and time again simply because their mothers do not trust them. It may be little things, but children truly desire to be trusted. Children want for us to believe in them. Children want for us to believe in their abilities. We must constantly watch what our spirit communicates to them. How are you doing here?

3. Encouraging Them to Be ALL That God Has Created Them to Be... Encourage individuality. This is the key to peace, contentment, and inspiration. Constantly exhort them to become all that God has created them to be not what we want for them to be so that we look good or feel proud. Praise them when they succeed. Praise their character qualities as they mature and develop them. Let them know how special they are. Each child has his own bent...his own gifts...his own talents. Train them in this way...unique, no comparisons, no copying, completely individual...just like God wants for them to live as adults! What good things do you see in your child? Are you communicating this to them? Do you simply assume that they know?



An Idea for You:

Keep an ongoing list in your prayer journal of character qualities, talents, gifts, and interests as you see them develop in your children. Let them KNOW!

4. Constantly Share With Them God's Plan And Purpose For Them! There is no greater encouragement and accountability than constant reminders of what God has promised! Help your children to see how far they have come. Let them know that you SEE that they are moving toward the higher call! Constantly give them a glimpse of God's vision. Let them know what God has said about their value. Let them know how precious they are to Him. Help to encourage them toward God's plan for their lives! Take a moment to think over the last few years...what growth do you see in your child spiritually? Intellectually? Emotionally?

What areas do you see a need for growth? Write them down. These will be your praises later (NOT criticism or correction NOW! Save for praises later!)!

What are some practical ways that you can come along side of your children to help them grow?

Inspire Your Children Toward Greatness...

"whosovever will be great among you, let him be your minister."

Matthew 20: 26

One of the things that is simply a "Gunter" thing (that is my maiden name!), was doing what I call now, "the little things." If I could note one thing that my parents did that really changed my life, I would have to say it came from our day-by-day lifestyle of living as a servant-minister to everyone we came in contact with.

My parents simply lived a life of doing "the little things" for others. I am talking about things that few people in this world would ever take note of…but I did! From an early age, I learned a secret to true greatness… ministering in the little things! Want for your children to become great? I have a couple of keys…

1.	Serve in the little things	What do you think th	is means?	Brainstorm through	some fur
	"little things" that you can c	o with your children tode	ıy		

2. Little things change LIVES... I once read that Friedrich Nietzsche said, "I would believe in their salvation if they looked a little more like people who have been saved." What are some of the little things that your family does that "looks a little bit more like people who have been saved?"

We read another quote in one of our favorite books a while back, It said, "We never know the power of personal influence, especially of the unconscious, personal influence. You little know that I was near you, my boy, when you made the resolve to give the good farmer back his sovereign; and you little thought of the INFLUENCE that was having on me as a spectator, and so on the whole perhaps of your future life. Trifles are often the turning points of human history." (Clean Your Boots, Sir?) Do you think this is true?

	What are some of the little things, "trifles," that have influenced your walk with God as you have quietly watched the lives of others?
	What are some practical ways that you can instill in your children a lifestyle of doing the little things? (Need a little help? See Deuteronomy 6: 4-6)
3	B. Little Things Are the Key to Becoming Great! But how does a mother inspire a child toward greatness through the little things? First, make it a priority to serve others in the home. Why? It teaches our children to find things to do that are never seen opening a door for someone needing a hand putting away clothes or a toy for a sibling for the millionth time (!!!)feeding their sister's petsdoing their brother's chorelistening to a beginning reader for momreading a story book to little brotherplaying a game with the little ones helping mom prepare dinner for guestsetc. These things are little things that serve others. Little things to the eyebut big things for the kingdom of God! Can you think of more?
	Little things done in the home teach our children to serve with right motives. It is the little things that teach them to discern the unspoken needs of others. When one another feels poorlywhen someone has nothing working out right that daywhen someone goes through a struggle in life. How do you already model this before your children?
	These lessons are priceless! How many people struggle when they encounter those hurting in our culture? They want to help, they just do not have any idea of where to begin. As a result, many people are left to just hurt. Want to begin training your children to do those "little things" for others so they can learn how to truly become great?? Begin by ministering to them in little ways. Let them catch your enthusiasm as they watch us do little things that no one sees. Let it be a FAMILY thing (A RUSHTON thing! A Gunter thing! WHO YOU ARE!)

Want To Inspire Your Children Toward Greatness?

1. Begin young! Begin while they are young. Teach them from infancy to minister and serve. How? Teach them to play quietly at Mommy's feet while Mommy listens to a weeping mother pour out her heart and offers biblical wisdom. Teach them to work hard together with Mommy to clean the house just for Daddy! Get them busy helping Mommy with baby brother while Mommy listens to sister read her story aloud. Give them a ministry of making cards for a family who has just lost a baby while Mommy and Sister make a meal. Do you have more ideas? List a few...

One thing is for sure... ALL children will love to minister and serve *if* it is our heartbeat and our way of life *and* if it is shared with them!

2. Instill Spiritual Disciplines NOW... Help your children to develop their Daily Bible Reading/Study, Meditation on Scripture, Prayer (Prayer Journal), Ministry, Praise/Worship, and Bible Memory. How are they doing? Which area needs a bit of work now? How can you help them develop good spiritual disciplines?

3. Use their spiritual gifts. Which gifts do you see in them? How can you use them in your daily life now, not when they are older?

Gifts	Practical Uses
	Gifts

- 4. Crucify ALL flesh NOW! The home is also the perfect training ground for learning ministry while getting rid of the flesh. You can help your children develop maturity in the Word and dominion over their flesh. Want to see what one looks like when walking in the flesh rather than the Spirit?
 - Encouragers...they are the first ones to be depressed.
 - Prophets...they are the ones with words and judgment that cut to the bone.
 - ◆ Servant...wants recognition and fame for what they do.
 - ♥ Giver...won't trust God for a new venture.
 - ♥ Discerner...picks everyone to pieces.
 - ▼ Teacher…loud and offers insights without regard to the receptivity of someone's heart.
 - ▼ Mercy...develops a co-dependency with those she could really help!

How can you help your little one to crucify his or her flesh? Do you see their natural weaknesses? How can you "help" them to overcome those weaknesses?

There is NO Greater Training Ground for greatness! TRAIN THEM IN YOUR OWN HOME! "whosovever will be great among you, let him be your minister."

Life and Death are in the Tongue... The Incredible Power of YOUR Words!

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."

Proverbs 18: 21

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Proverbs 31: 26

Let's go back in time...back to the beginning. The very beginning!

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If you can stretch your mind a little bit...
...think of no people
...no animals
...no flowers
...no trees
...no light
...no world
...NOTHING but darkness and the God-head.
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...Imagine if you can the very moment before creation ...Then imagine

...God SPOKE "Let there be..."

...And it all began!

Words have power! Look again at the verse above from Proverbs 18:21. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue!" God, Himself demonstrated in the power of words in those first moments of creation...His Words had the power of Life! Think of that for a moment...there was nothing. Absolutely nothing in existence but God, Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and the End. Yet, God spoke all that we know and see, hear, feel, and smell into existence! What power in words! The power to create!

Not only can words bring life, but they also have the power to bring death and pain. A study on the tongue through Scripture shows us that there is much power, destructive power, in the tongue. Take a look at James 3: 3-8. Animals can be tamed...ships can be directed...yet, the tongue cannot be controlled (Well, without walking in the Spirit!).

Power, Power...The Power of Words... Yes. There is power in those utterances from our mouth. Great power. Look up the following verses. Jot down in the blanks provided what you learn about words and their power (This may take a few days! ALSO...jot down any other verses you may find along the way in the blanks at the bottom.)...

♥ Proverbs 25:11

♥ Proverbs 15: 4
♥ Proverbs 15: 1
♥ Isaiah 50: 4
♥ Proverbs 15: 7
▶ Proverbs 15: 23
♥ Psalm 17: 3-4
♥ Psalm 34: 12-15
♥ Ephesians 4:29
♥ Proverbs 31: 26
♥ Proverbs 10: 19
♥ Proverbs 10: 19-20

◆ Proverbs 11: 11		
♥ Proverbs 12:17		
◆ Proverbs 12: 18		
♥ Proverbs 12: 18		
◆ Proverbs 12: 19		
♥ Proverbs 15: 28		
◆ Proverbs 15: 26		
◆ Proverbs 15: 23		
♥ Proverbs 15: 23		
♥ Proverbs 15: 2		
♥ Proverbs 15: 4		

- ♥ Jeremiah 18: 18
- ▶ James 3:6
- ♥ Proverbs 25:15

Are you seeing the power of the tongue? Those little words that just slip out? Words have power! The tongue has the power of life or death.

Now take this home to your child. Your words to your child have power. You may praise and lift up your weary child with just a few simple words. Your seemingly, insignificant words may build up your little child from nothing, from obscurity to greatness. Those little words that you say all along the way, all throughout the years, are the words that speak approval, love, acceptance, and blessing!

Who knows? Some quiet moment, in the midst of your busiest day, may be the moment that you speak the words that inspire them toward greatness. Your words, dear mother may be the very words of instruction that finally sink in to help them to succeed! Your words may be the words that serve as a rudder throughout their life to keep them on track as you help them to move toward their calling.

Now...think about other ways that words may affect our children. It only takes a word to break a heart. Those little words that we *really* don't mean can pierce through the soul of our precious child. Just one little word, that is all it takes, can wound the spirit of a child. A multitude of words never seems to make up for that one little word. The sting of words has the power to build or tear-down.

Perhaps few women set forth with a desire to tear a child to pieces, yet the same moment that could build-up a child can quickly turn into a demolition of a soul! Power! It is because of the power in our words that we must be very careful to minister to the heart of our children with words.

Keys for the Mother Wanting to Minister to the Heart of Her Child through Words...

▶ Learn the Value of Praise and Encouragement! Doesn't it just feel good when you know that you are right on track? Doesn't it fire you up to have just a little acknowledgment of the little things that you do? Think about a child and the impact that a little bit of praise can have in their lives.

Our children struggle through their trials and often need just a touch of praise and encouragement to light the fire of enthusiasm to keep on trying hard to succeed! Children try so hard. They need for those little successes to get as much attention, or more so, than their failures! They need to be praised at least ten times as much as they were corrected or reproved.

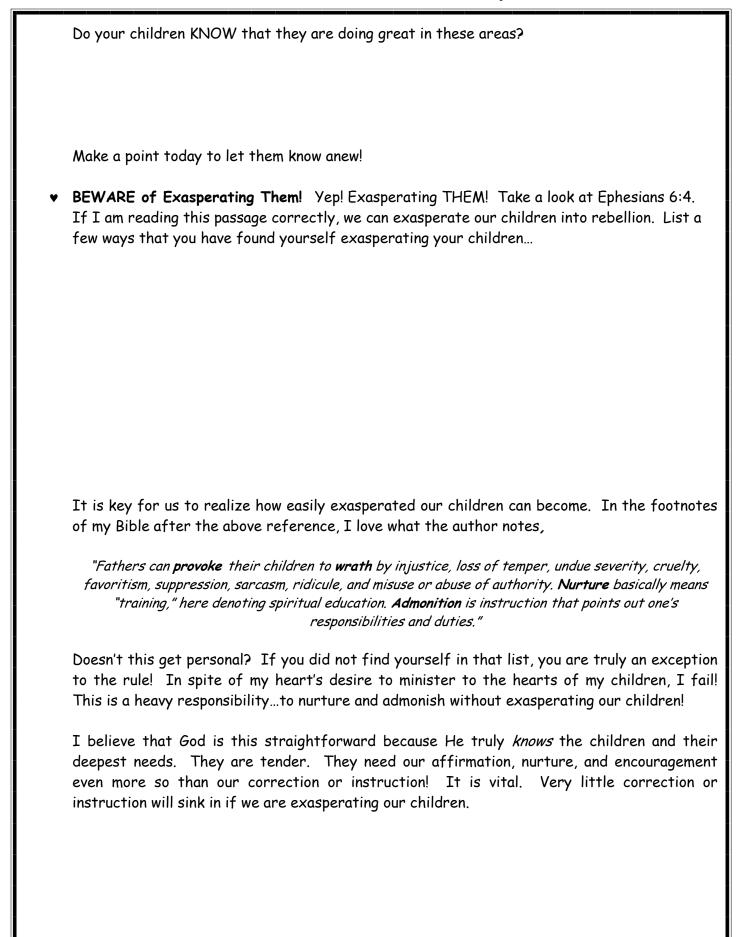
Our greatest needs as human beings are...love...affirmation ...nurture ...meaning ...purpose...to be cherished ...to know that we are good ...to know what we actually are doing *right*! (maturing, growing..)

Our children are just like us. BUT even more tender than we are. They need *constant* assurance that they are on the right track, little affirmations in word will carry them through when they are struggling along. Just a little praise (makes a real difference in their lives...the difference between success and failure, mistakes and trying again, confidence and insecurity, contentment and frustration, peace and strife, broken heart or a child with a heart for God!

Learn the value of praise and encouragement! Build your child with your praise and encouragement that comes from the depths of your heart and flows right into their ears!



An Idea for You...What are some areas that you see great things from your children? Jot a few areas below. ALSO begin a section in your Mommy Journal that continues the list for each of your children. (There WILL be days that you will need it...and so will they!!)



How DO We Keep from Exasperating Our Children?

Live a Crucified-Life...

Take a look at Romans 12: 1.	What do y	ou think is meant by	presenting v	yourself as a l	iving sacrifice?
	,		'	,	

List below some areas of SELF that you must sacrifice on a daily basis in order to avoid exasperating your children...

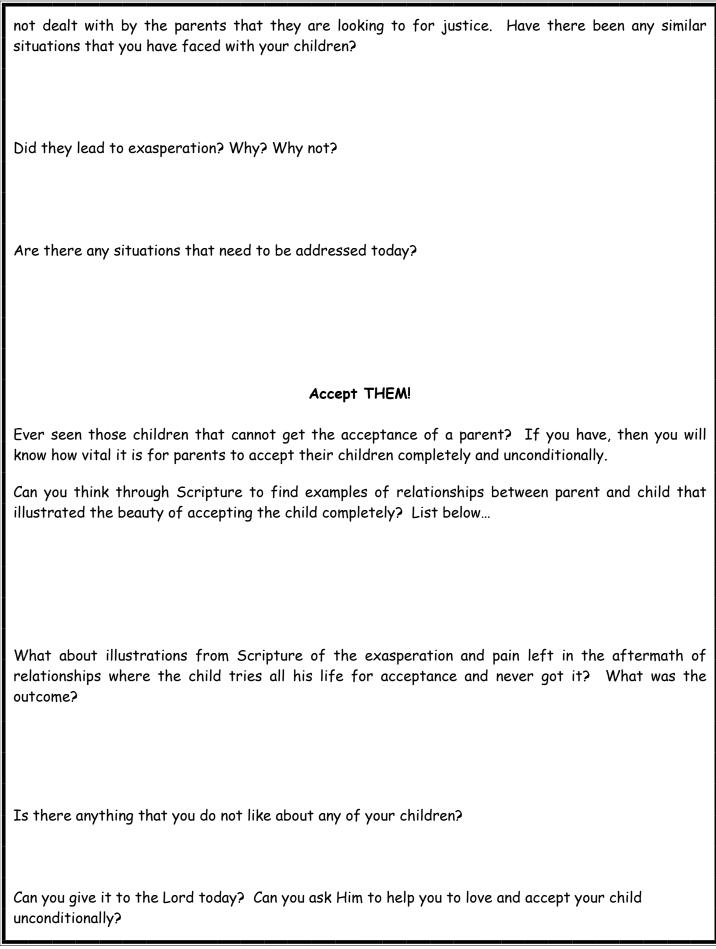
We need to live a "crucified-life." This means that if we ever want to become that *Hidden Woman of the heart* that ministers to the heart of our children, we must go to the cross each and every day to crucify our flesh. Our flesh is so exasperating, even more so for our children than for us! They need to see us crucifying "self" each and every day. They need to see us learning how to lay down our life, lay down our desires, ask forgiveness, admit when we are wrong, and daily crucify our pride and willfulness! Unless we do, we will find that our children will want very little to do with our beliefs…our lifestyle…our convictions…our God. They will become exasperated.

Deal With Problems...

Another area that seems to practically "breed" exasperation is when a parent does not deal with problems in the family. Think through the Bible. List some of the situations from Scripture that you immediately come to mind as you think of a parent who did not deal with problems in the family...

What was the outcome?

Need a little help? Look at David and Absalom... Jacob and Esau... Tamar and her father-in-law. It is extremely frustrating, to the point of exasperation, for a child to have a problem in life that is



Really Build Your Child!

Look up Proverbs 23:7. Can you think of anything you have ever said that your children have become?

Proverbs 31: 26 tells us that the wise woman is careful with her words... "She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness." The wise woman remembers that her words are very, very important in building up her child. And yes, we learn in Proverbs 14:1 that "Every wise woman buildeth her house."

Our words have much influence. Our words are one of the primary ways that we build our home, our child. Our words pour forth what is in our heart. This either builds up or tears down.

So, how do we build our children?

♥ Guard YOUR heart... Take a look at Proverbs 4: 23. How does your heart affect your relationship with your children?

★ Accept and affirm WHO they ARE! Do you totally accept your children? How does this build them up?

How can you affirm your child for who your child is?

Do you build them up or cut them down?

▶ Believe IN them! One of the greatest gifts that we have as children is when we know that our parents believe in us. I have always felt the confidence that my parents had in me. However, I know far too many people who cannot say the same thing. Actually, of all of the

	things in the whole world that they would have wanted from their parents, this would top their list. How are you doing? Do your children KNOW that you believe in them? How?
	If not, are they becoming what you have spoken over them or about them?
	Have your actions tore them down?
	Praise God! He is the Great Redeemer! EVEN if you have totally bombed in this area, He can redeem and restore! Go to Him. Confess this failure. Seek Him and His way to restore this relationship!
•	Encourage them All along the wayYou are their greatest cheerleader. What are some practical ways that you can encourage them today?
•	Build memories! Of all of the ways to build your children, this is the best way to schedule time with your children to practice all of those resolutions! Not to mention, if you want to restore and overcome the bad memories, there is no greater way than for you to build NEW memories! What are some things you can do today to make a memory?
	Need a little help? Think through the things that you have been putting off until another dayWhat are they?

	Why not do it today? Make a memory! They are the treasures that you AND your children will hold on to eternally!
•	Build traditions! Yep! Traditions are Biblical. Of course, we don't choose the tradition over relationships or we miss God's very best. But, we see in Scripture that God constantly set up required times of celebration and ways to "remember" the past. Our family traditions serve in the same manner: to remind us where we have been, how God worked in our lives then, and where we are going. Have traditions already? What are your family "things" (hear that word Southern Style)?
	What makes those traditions special?
	How do you think traditions build a child into a greater person?
	What traditions can you develop into daily events for your family?
•	Enjoy EVERY minute we have with them I found this quote a while back, "View every interruption as an opportunity to shepherd your child's heartevery frustration as an opportunity for God to shepherd YOUR heart." (Unknown) As I have thought and studied over the life of Jesus, the greatest Discipler, I have seen that this is exactly what He did all throughout His ministry. He was constantly met with crisis situations and interruptions. Relate? Of course, mothers are bombarded constantly with crisis' and interruptions. Think

•	pical day. List a few of the situations that commonly bombard you. Don't for at throw you "for a loop!"
find that	re to look at each situation where Jesus had hindrances and interruptions, we w He used those as "opportunities" to minister. In fact, His whole ministry consis opportunities" along the way than actual 3-point sermons!
	ck over those that crisis situations and interruptions that you listed. How can t tunities along the way?
What do y	you think is most crucial: planned lessons or those that are gleaned along the way
Go back t Why?	to Deuteronomy 6: 4-6. Which do you think are more likely in the Christian ho
How is Go vividly?	od more real through the every day situations? How does your child see Him n
Can you u:	se all situations, every minute, to build your child?