

PARENTS CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

NOT EVEN CATS AND DOGS FIGHT LIKE MY CHILDREN! ... PART 3

Two months ago we discussed how you can help your children understand *why* they fight amongst themselves—because of the sinful desires that come from their sinful hearts (James 4:1-3). The key is to hold up the mirror of Scripture (James 1:22-25) in order to help them see what God says about what they are doing.

Last month we emphasized being used by God in your child's life as an agent of repentance. Point out his sin from Scripture, then point him to Jesus Christ. Show him that Jesus offers forgiveness if he will confess her sin to God and others and ask for forgiveness.

So far we have focused on correction—biblically dealing with instances of arguing and fighting among your children. But as parents we must not only be reactive; we must also be proactive. We must not only correct; we must also instruct.

Ken Sande, in his very helpful book *Peacemaking for Families*, writes:

The truth is, we must, with God's help, teach our children to respect others, live with others, and most importantly, love others. If they are to



live lives pleasing to God, they will need education in how to get along with their siblings and friends. And to do this, they must know how to properly resolve conflicts even amongst themselves. In short, they must be taught peacemaking... Peacemaking equips children for life. If you want your children to glorify God, have fulfilling and enduring marriages, be fruitful in their careers, and contribute to their churches and the building of God's kingdom, teach them to be peacemakers! (p. 114-116)

But how do we do this? How can we teach our children to be peacemakers?

1. Teach them by your example.

Regardless of what you say to your children, most of what they learn about getting along with other people will come from what they see you do. If you live in denial or flee from conflict, your children will learn to become avoiders. If you lash out with angry words and blame others for everything that goes wrong, they will learn to become attackers. And if you refuse to forgive, they will become lonely and bitter people.

The reverse is also true. If your children see you humbly confess your sins and seek to change with God's help, they'll learn to become responsible, growing people. If they see you confront others in love, they'll learn to use their words to build up, not to destroy. And if they see you forgive those who have hurt you deeply, they'll learn to preserve relationships and model the gospel of Jesus Christ (p. 119).

2. Teach them with planned times of instruction.

Use dinner time or family devotion time to teach your children about how to handle conflict biblically. Read examples in the Bible of conflict and ask questions about how the people involved dealt with it. Examine verses that deal with conflict. Role play situations in which conflict arises.

3. Teach them by using the conflicts of daily life.

Most families encounter conflict repeatedly every day... The good news is: Every one of these incidents offers a rich opportunity to help your children face their selfish desires and practice the basic principles of peacemaking (p. 120).

4. Teach them by asking questions about examples of conflict in culture.

Use simple questions at the right time to stimulate discussions: "Is the main character in this book using an escape response or an attack response?" "Is he acting wisely?" "What desires in his heart seem to have turned into idols?" "What consequences do you think he will experience if he gives in to these desires?" "If you were the girl in this movie, how would you confess to her mother?" "If you were her mother, what would you say to show that you had really forgiven her?" (p. 121).

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Mt. 5:9). It will be hard work, but God will help and bless you as you teach your children to be peacemakers!



Check out this great web site, which has a calendar of family events, a list of restaurants with "kids eat free" specials, and even kiddie classified ads!

www.desmoinesfamilies.com



family spotlight

Check out
www.finchamfamily.com

the finchams



Family time together

go to Kansas City Wizard soccer games, wrestle in the living room, play horsey with daddy, read books

Favorite TV shows/movies

Lost, The Hunt for Red October, The Lord of the Rings trilogy, anything from Pixar

Favorite vacation

Going to Montana to see Jodi's family (only kind of vacation we take)

Prayer requests

Jodi's brother Mike and his wife are filing for divorce. They have three children.

Jodi

- * *Birthdate:* 6/13/79
- * *Job:* Chiropractor's Asst.
- * *Church Ministry:* 2s & 3s Evening Service Coordinator, God's Garden Caregiver
- * *Favorite Bible verse:* Ps. 37:5
- * *Favorite food:* Mexican
- * *Enjoys:* sewing, scrapbooking, cooking

Quinn

- * *Birthdate:* 10/17/06
- * *Job:* being cute & a holy terror
- * *Favorite food:* French fries; M&Ms
- * *Enjoys:* begging anyone within 100 ft. of him to read him a book...or seven

Brooke

- * *Birthdate:* 5/19/05
- * *Job:* being cute & a holy terror
- * *Favorite Bible story:* Noah & the Ark
- * *Favorite food:* Ramen noodle soup
- * *Enjoys:* playing dress-up, watching *Monsters, Inc.* for the 4,763rd time

Brent

- * *Birthdate:* 12/5/78
- * *Job:* Gutter Guards
- * *Church Ministry:* Upward Referee, God's Garden Caregiver, Kids Bible Club Game Director
- * *Favorite Bible verse:* Ps. 18:2
- * *Favorite food:* BBQ
- * *Enjoys:* surfing the Web, watching soccer, amateur photography

RESOURCES FOR TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT PEACEMAKING

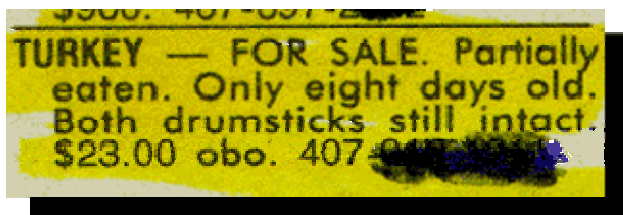
Peacemaking for Families: A Biblical Guide to Managing Conflict in Your Home by Ken Sande (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2002). This book addresses solutions for conflict between spouses, between parents and children, and between siblings. \$11 through Faith Baptist Bible College Bookstore (964-7946).

The Young Peacemaker by Corlette Sande. This curriculum is designed to help teach children to be peacemakers. Would be helpful for family devotions or other times of parental instruction. See www.hispeace.org for more information or to order.

I would be glad to order the above resources for you (or any other resource that would help you train your children). Just call or email me!

READ MY QUTPS

PARENTS CHRONICLE CLASSIFIED ADS



GRANDVIEW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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