



PARENTS **PARK Kids** CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

39 LESSONS FOR PARENTING

BY MATT & ELIZABETH SCHMUCKER

Lessons About Ourselves

1. To be a faithful steward of your children you must abide in Christ (John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man *remains* in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.").
2. "Trickle down theory" – Mom's daily devotion naturally trickles down to encouragement and instruction in the Lord for the children.
3. Not listening to your children causes you to misjudge them (James 1:19-20: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires").
4. Our task list is not as important as our children's thought life.
5. Preach the gospel of grace, not self-discipline.
6. Being parented is defining; Parenting is refining.
7. You will parent the way you were parented *unless* you think things through.
8. Parents should become "smaller" as their children become bigger. In other words, a parent should become more transparent in confessing one's sin and in sharing past struggles as children mature. Your children should hear more about your fight for faith as they grow older. Don't be a plastic Christian!
9. Ordinary times make for extraordinary memories.
10. To have children is to need margin in your life.
11. A disreputable life will undermine the gospel. An exemplary life will commend it.

Lessons About Children

12. Little kids need the strength of your youth; older kids need your wisdom (i.e. have children while you're young!).
13. Pack in truth while your children are little and trust the Lord to unpack it in his time.
14. Study your children. Know their "love language."
15. Consistent, loving, faithful discipline brings peace to the home. Inconsistency brings chaos.
16. Do not let your child see their value in light of the world's standards. The world rewards the 3 R's. God delights in the heart that is tuned toward his (Deuteronomy 30:8-10: "You will again obey the Lord and follow all his commands I am giving you today. Then the Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again *delight* in you and make you prosperous, just as he *delighted* in your fathers, if you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your *heart* and with all your *soul*").
17. God hands out "talents" to our children. The child with two talents who exercises both may in fact be more pleasing in the eyes of God than the one with five talents who exercises three (Matt. 25). Faithful stewardship is the goal!
18. On some days, it's just fine to accomplish nothing more than keeping your kids fed and safe.
19. Older children need to learn how to care for the weaker among them; doing so smells like Jesus. Matthew 18 reads, "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." By contrast, Psalm 10:2 reads, "In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises."
20. Do not presume you will be able to speak into the lives of your older children if you do not live in their world when they are younger. Play

with your children. There is a reap/sow principle at work here (2 Cor. 9:6:

Preach the gospel of grace, not self-discipline.

- "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously").
21. There's nothing wrong with boredom for your children. It causes them to be creative.
 22. Send your kids to bed well (and school!) (Eph. 4:26: "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry").
 23. Make sure your kids keep short accounts with each other. Create a culture of care and forgiveness in your home (1 Cor. 13:5: "Love...keeps no record of wrongs").
 24. Teach your kids to be shock absorbers, not wave makers (Matt. 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God").
 25. Kids can memorize scripture very quickly.
 26. Teach your children to notice needs. Teach them to ask, "What can I do to help?" (Phil. 2:3: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves").
 27. Teach your children to look adults in the eyes. It shows respect and recognizes authority.
 28. Fight materialism by teaching your children to have a thankful heart (1 Thes. 5:18: "...*give thanks* in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus").
 29. Teach your children to receive reproof, correction, and instruction (Prov. 12:15 "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man *listens to advice*").
 30. Let kids be kids. Let them dabble in various areas of extra-curricular activities (sports, art, drama, etc) rather than build a resume.

family spotlight



the buys family

Family Time Together

Playing UNO, going on walks, watching movies

Favorite Vacation

Vacation???

Favorite Music

Chris Tomlin, Michael W. Smith

Prayer Requests

Family health

Savannah

- * *Birthday:* 11/16/98 (4th gr.)
- * *Favorite Bible character:* Esther
- * *Favorite food:* candy
- * *Enjoys:* singing, ballet
- * *Funny quote:* On the way to Cedar Rapids, asked, "When are we going to see the rabbits?"

Jacob

- * *Birthday:* 4/23/07
- * *Favorite food:* bananas
- * *Favorite Bible story:* birth of baby Jesus
- * *Enjoys:* running in circles

Rhonda

- * *Birthday:* 4/29
- * *Job:* full-time Mom and student at Simpson College
- * *Church Ministry:* God's Garden Caregiver
- * *Favorite Bible verse:* Eph. 5:1
- * *Favorite food:* Fettuccini Alfredo
- * *Enjoys:* reading, stamping

B. J.

- * *Birthday:* 2/22/04 (pre-K)
- * *Favorite food:* hot dogs
- * *Favorite Bible story:* Jonah & whale
- * *Enjoys:* playing with train set

Jon

- * *Birthday:* 12/23
- * *Job:* Systems Administrator
- * *Favorite Bible character:* Joshua
- * *Favorite food:* spaghetti carbonara
- * *Enjoys:* reading

Maddy

- * *Birthday:* 3/23/01 (2nd gr.)
- * *Favorite Bible characters:* Adam & Eve
- * *Favorite food:* grapes
- * *Enjoys:* reading, math

39 LESSONS FOR PARENTING – CONT.

Lessons About Satan

31. It seems Satan comes into our homes on Sunday mornings in order to make the Lord's Day one of struggle.
32. Do not feel outside pressure to baptize your children. Look for and test for a credible profession of faith in your child (Prov 22:15 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child...").
33. Satan is a divider and always attacks authority: husband/wife and parent/child. In your home fight for unity around the gospel.
34. For mothers, the "I-can-do-it-all-superwoman" mindset is at best a myth and at worst a lie from hell (Matt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money"; Luke 10:40 "But Martha was *distracted* by all the preparations that had to be made; verse 41: "Martha, Martha, you are *worried and upset about many things*, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her").
35. Beware of sports...on Sundays! Decide while your children are young that you will not allow the growing all-weekend sports phenomenon to usurp your worship (Ex. 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God"). [Note: GPBC does not

believe Sunday is the "Christian Sabbath," but we do share the concern that sports not "usurp worship" by preventing children and families from attending regularly scheduled church services.]

36. Arm your children for the world, not (necessarily) shield them from it. Consider getting your high-school-aged children out of the Christian bubble. [Note: For example, by allowing them to have an appropriate secular job. But be aware what they are getting into!]

Lessons About God

37. Prayer is a mighty weapon to use in the life of your children: It changes the parent's approach to the child, and it softens the hard-hearted child.
38. God uses children as a mirror to your own heart to expose your sin and hypocrisy.
39. God elects. God saves. Parents cannot do this heart-changing work. At best we can pray and point to the One who can cause our children to be born again.

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