

No. 104 Parents—Are You Building With Fire-Resistant Materials?

PLEASE NOTE: Help parents teach effectively and reach their children's heart. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

AN ILLUSTRATION THAT PARENTS CAN LEARN FROM (3 min.)

Christian parents have the privilege of teaching their children to love and serve Jehovah

Parents must counteract the influence of the world and help their children overcome wrong tendencies (Ge 8:21; 1Jo 5:19)

How can parents succeed? Let us learn from a Bible illustration [Read 1 Corinthians 3:12, 13]

Raising children who stand firm in the truth is like constructing a durable building; both require fire-resistant materials

WHAT ARE THE FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS? (4 min.)

The illustration in 1 Corinthians contrasts two types of building materials—combustible and fire-resistant (study note on 1Co 3:12, *nwtsty*)

The fire represents pressures and temptations that test a person's faith and love for God

The fire-resistant materials represent fine qualities, such as faith, wisdom, and love, that help a person remain loyal to God despite tests (Pr 3:13-15; 1Pe 1:7; 1Jo 5:3)

Literal fire-resistant materials are costly; likewise, building fire-resistant qualities in children requires much time and effort

HOW TO BUILD WITH FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS (19 min.)

Teach your children God's Word (Pr 22:6)

Train your children "from infancy" (2Ti 3:15)

As you teach them, emphasize Jesus' example (1Co 3:11; w20.10 29-31 ¶12-18)

Family worship should be consistent, practical, and enjoyable (w09 10/15 29-31) [Image 1]

Use family worship to help your children prepare for tests of their faith

Teach your children how to do personal Bible study and to use our study tools

Teach by example (De 6:5, 6; w07 5/15 15 ¶3-5)

By your good example, you show the wisdom of obeying Jehovah's laws

Children notice whether your actions match your words (Ro 2:21; w22.05 28 ¶7-9)

Teach your children to pray, and pray with them

Regularly attend Christian meetings as a family, and work together in the field ministry [Image 2]

Reach your children's heart

Talk with your children often, and listen carefully (De 6:7; Jas 1:19; w16.09 29-30 ¶6-8)

Invite them to express their feelings (Pr 20:5; w16.09 29 ¶3-5) [Image 3]

Be patient as you help your children build faith (w17.12 19-20 ¶6-9)

Adjust your teaching methods to meet the needs of each child (Ps 127:4; w19.12 27 ¶20)

Provide loving discipline (Pr 13:24; w04 7/15 31 ¶3)

Discipline includes instruction, guidance, and correction

Be consistent, reasonable, and kind—never harsh or abusive (1Co 13:4; Col 3:21; g18.2 9)

THE REWARD FOR BUILDING WITH FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS (4 min.)

With Jehovah's help, parents can become 'skilled master builders' (1Co 3:10)

Ask Jehovah to strengthen you and to guide your efforts (Jg 13:8-10; w15 11/15 7 ¶15)

Diligent parents can expect their building efforts to succeed [Read 1 Corinthians 3:14]

Even if a youth chooses not to serve Jehovah, his faithful parents can be sure that Jehovah is pleased with them (1Co 3:15)

Parents, may you forever enjoy the reward for building with fire-resistant materials!

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[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.
Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned
Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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S-34-E No. 104 1/23