

A Parent's Heart and Roles

Reflection

What is one thing we learned from our parents that we are grateful for? Can we share our story about one memorable time we had with our father or mother?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build. Unless the Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep watch. It is vain for you to rise early and put off your rest at night, to eat bread earned by hard toil all this God gives to his beloved in sleep.
(Psalm 127:1-2)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded." (Surah At-Tahrim 66:6)

Hadith

Ali bin Abi Talhah reported from Ibn Abbas; He said: "Work in the obedience of Allah, avoid disobedience of Allah and order your families to remember Allah, then Allah will save you from the Fire." (Sahih Al Bukhari)

What does God expect of us as parents?

- A. God designed parents to be builders, watchmen and providers. We have to partner with God to build a godly home and construct spiritual foundations in our children. Sometimes, we need help from "subcontractors" such as teachers and church leaders. As watchmen, we must guard our children's hearts and be aware of potentially harmful influences and relationships in their environment, such as friends, music and entertainment. Likewise, when we partner with God to provide for our family, He promises to bless our work and provide for us even as we sleep.

For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God. (Hebrews 3:4)

- B. God designed parents to discipline children (0 to 5 years old), train children (6 to 12 years old), and coach children (13 to 19 years old). As our children go through different stages of childhood and growth, our roles as parents also adjust accordingly. Discipline teaches a child to: (1) obey without challenge, excuse or delay, (2) understand what is right and wrong, and (3) enjoy the benefits of obedience.

As children grow, godly training helps them move from simple obedience to understanding why they should do something, and what the consequences are for obedience and disobedience. When children become teenagers, our role as parents shifts to coaching, listening, motivating, inspiring and challenging them. Our life and faith now serve as models for our children to emulate.

Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. (Proverbs 13:24)

My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck. (Proverbs 1:8-9)

Challenge

life? What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: May God bless us and protect us. May God smile on us and be gracious to us. May God show us His favor and give us peace.