

Mother's Day Devotion

May 10, 2009 - Skip MacMillan

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:5).

How do we do this?

1. You abiding in Christ

Receive His love for you and ask the Holy Spirit to fill your life.

Devotion to God:

Read your Bible, meditate, question, think;

Pray with and for them and others, let them hear you pray to God for others.

Action: Attitude, character, and the helping and serving of others.

Gives them a living example of God actively moving in a person's life.

Shows them what it means to follow Jesus: be an example!

You are the part of the Body of Christ they see all the time!

Do you now dedicate your child to God and promise, in humble reliance upon the Lord's strength, grace and teachings that you will live before (them) an example of a life being loved by God and loving God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? WE DO.

*Will you point (them) to the heart of God, teach (them) the Scriptures, pray **with** (them) and **for** (them) and will you strive to love (them) as (their) heavenly Fathers loves (them)? WE WILL.*

2. You loving your spouse: Marriage

Wrestling with selfishness

Marriage will show you how selfish you really are.

Children take it to a whole other level.

Laying down your life for another, your wife and your child.

Forgoing wants, dreams, promotions for them, so you can have more time to pour into them.

Accountable - Who are you accountable to ultimately? Who is your bottom line? Who or what determines what you do in life? Is it God? Is it His Scripture?

Acts of kindness - moving from selfishness to love; i.e. bring coffee in the morning.

Time together - Time to talk, time to listen, to sit together, to hold hands.

Likes over personalities, find something fun you can do together and don't give up trying.

Prayer

Pray for your spouse regularly.

Pray with her, out loud, holding hands.

Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13.

Get on your knees.

3. Holy Spirit, Philippians 2:13

The Holy Spirit must be at work in you for this to be possible!

God's power, God's energy, molding and shaping you into His likeness.

"Call on the Holy Spirit to teach you the Scriptures, empower you to live as a follower of Christ, comfort you in times of trouble, to give you the character of God and to gift you for every good work so as to speak into this child's life, to build up His church and to be a shining testimony to the world around us."

Purpose:

Show her what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Show her how to love her husband by how you love yours!

Show her how she ought to be loved by how you treat your wife.

Show her how to raise a child by how you are raising her.

What will they say about you when they are 30 something, married and with children?

As a Family

- Eat together, breakfast and/or dinner and talk
- Play together: golf, boating, hiking, soccer, camping, traveling, etc.
- Talk about the Scriptures together (the stories; present questions, quote a verse).
Do it while in the car, at home, running errands.
Give them a living example of Christ in a person's life.
Give them a Scriptural view of God, the Cross, the meaning of this life.
A child's Question
It may be what they overhear that is more important.
- Pray together: dinner, bedtime, on the way to school and also at various times during the week
- Let them see you reading your Bible and praying
- Time: set some family time parameters. MacMillan Time: Friday 3 pm to Sat night.
- Teach:
Teach them how to view people, with compassion.
Teach them the attitude of Christ and His followers, Phil. 2.
Teach them the Fruit of the Spirit, character qualities of His followers, Gal. 5:22-23.
Teach them the Mission Christ has given us, be a follower of Christ, to disciple others, to help other people, to deny ourselves and follow Jesus.

A Different View of Your Child

Whose child is she? See her as God's child and He has given her to you, to raise.

How will you raise her?

You are accountable to God for the words you use, the time you spend and how you raise His child.

Hear this, another token drops in your bucket in heaven every time you tell him "I love you" with your words or actions.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14).

Make the most of every opportunity, don't let them slip by.