



MAY 2015

**Purposeful Parenting**  
Connecting Church and Family  
Deut. 6:7

A biblical view of parenting...

When our first child, Jane, was a newborn, I can distinctly remember putting her in her car seat for her four day checkup. It was a very emotional day. I knew that she was not gaining weight. I was tired and I was worried. But I was sure of one thing. God was really in control. I had this word from God as I climbed into the passenger seat. He whispered to me, "*open hands... hold her with open hands*". You see, she wasn't really ours. She was ultimately His. He had entrusted her to Chris and me to watch over and to point towards Him in every way possible. As Chris and I drove home after our appointment, we discussed the families we knew that had made their children their whole world. They were so caught up in their kids' activities and successes, that they had no identity apart from them. Their children had become idols. Already, with Jane, I could see how it could happen for me. She was so perfect and beautiful. But that is not God's desire for parenthood.

*"Children are a gift from God: they are his reward."  
Psalm 127: 3*

When we look at parenting, we need to understand the role our heavenly Father plays. He is the ultimate example for parenting! He loves to give good gifts to His children, He provides our basic needs, He disciplines us. Biblical direction for parenting is to train up a child in the way that he should go (Proverbs 22:3). This indicates that each child has a way that he or she should go. It doesn't always look the same for each child. There is no one-way to do it! Maybe your kids are always dirty, can't eat without getting food everywhere. Maybe they love to pick their nose. Maybe they don't sleep! Maybe they cry or complain about everything. Maybe they are affectionate and need lots of snuggles. This verse tells us that no two kids are the same. But *each* child needs to know that he is loved and that nothing he can do will change that.

So what kind of parents are we supposed to be? **First, we make sure that everything we do points our kids back to God.** Whether that is with discipline, how we spend our time, or how we speak to them. Every parenting concern you have can be run through one question, "*How does this point them to their Heavenly Father?*" If we parent with that in mind, our kids get a much better, tangible picture of who God is.

**Then we set some parenting goals.** What goals do you have for your children? Ours are *to raise generous, responsible adults that have healthy relationships; that know and love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, and strength; and that know their own gifts and strengths.* Make a list of your parenting goals. Make it your family's mission to stick to those goals and filter any activity or decision through them.

**And finally, don't forget how powerful the practical little things can be.** Life can be so overwhelming and distracting, but if we put these things into practice at home, we are sure to see good results. Show them how to be thankful in all things. Pray for your children. Disciple your children, teach them to love the word and hide it in their heart. Have fun with your children; so

much is taught through playful engagement, it teaches the importance of fun and it builds connection.

Ultimately, we will never be enough. We will lose our patience, lose our temper, flounder and fall, time after time. We will never be enough, but Jesus is enough. He is enough so that we don't have to be. And that is what we want to teach our children.

-Carrie Tucker, Mosaic Women's Community Shepherd

### **Verses to memorize:**

**Children are a gift from God; they are his reward. Psalm 127:3**

**Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverb 22:3**

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4**

**If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11**

**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives." Hebrews 12:6**

## *Resources*

### *Books and Articles*

[Grace Based Parenting](#) by Tim Kimmel  
[Raising a Modern Day Knight](#) by Robert Lewis  
[Praying Circles Around Your Children](#) by Mark Batterson  
[Shepherding a Child's Heart](#) by Tedd Tripp

### **Blogs**

<http://lysaterkeurst.com/>

### **Devotions for Moms**

[Out of the Spin Cycle](#) by Jen Hatmaker  
[Proverbs 31 Woman](#)

# What's Happening?

## Calendar of Events: May

**Friday, May 8 - Saturday, May 9: Blast at New Life Ranch**

**Saturday, May 9: Parent Quarterly and Antioch Info Meeting** for parents of junior high and high school students. Student Center Central at 5:00pm or at 8:05pm in the Family Center Auditorium.

**Saturday, May 23: Mosaic Baptism Celebration and Extravahoopla** - For more information about baptism, contact Kassie Roland at [karoland@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:karoland@fellowshipnwa.org) by Monday, May 18th.

**Saturday, June 6: Next Gen Night with Mosaic 456** - Students 4th-12th grade will worship with their families at 5:00 pm and at 6:45 pm.

## Stay Connected



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[Early Childhood](#) / [Elementary](#) / [Students](#)

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- Deuteronomy 6:7