

PARENT PAGES

A Growing Christian makes the Best Parent

Communicating Lovingly

Experts tell us that up to 70 percent of our communication takes place without a word being spoken, by how we act through our body action and how we say things. We may say “Jesus loves you” through gritted teeth. We may listen to someone but never stop doing the activity we were into when they came to talk to us. This type of attending behavior is what Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 as being “only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.” Read the rest of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and identify behavior that reflects love.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Verse 4-7 give quite an imposing list of what is and is not. Take some time and apply each of them to family life at your house.
- Pray for forgiveness of where you have failed to model in your family. Know that God stands ready to forgive and comfort you with the news that Jesus has died for those sins as well.
- Think about how you can work at doing them better. Pray for strength to be able to do so.
- Listening is such a vital part of showing love. It says to the speaker, “what you have to say is very important because you are important.” Someone has said that the highest form of love is to listen to somebody.
- Think of ways you can better listen to the people in your family.

Listed below are a few possibilities that are available for your spiritual maturing. Many of these resources are from Concordia Publishing House. (800-325-3040) Ask your pastor(s), child’s principal or teacher for information on these and other materials.

Getting Ready for Next Sunday – Weekly study of upcoming Gospel lesson – (genesbrunotes.com)

Portals of Prayer (Journal)

Each devotion features a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions.

Happy Times (Journal)

If children could format a magazine, *Happy Times* would be it. Bible-based stories, colorful activity pages, and special projects are the mainstays of this monthly magazine targeted for 3- to 5-year-olds. A "Grown-ups Page" offers helpful and fun ideas for parents to encourage family time and Bible learning.

My Devotion (Journal)

Encourage 8- to 12-year-olds to build a habit of daily Bible reading at home! *My Devotions* is an excellent resource that points children to the Word through stories and situations to which they can relate. Each devotion page includes a Scripture reading, true-to-life story, and short prayer.

Blessing and Prayers for Parents (Book)

For parents of all ages with children of all ages, *Blessings and Prayers for Parents* points readers to our Heavenly Father as the only perfect parent and speaks to parents' need to hear God's specific words of forgiveness and grace.

You may also go to **www.cph.org** and search for "Parenting Materials" and find many other possibilities.