

A Proactive Plan for Successful Biblical Parenting

The other night I was blessed to connect with a sister in Christ, a mother of three who had expressed her desire to grow in the area of child training. We discussed a few things that she could “do” to correct specific behaviors in her children, but also went deeper to address some of the root causes of her frustration, as well.

One of the questions I asked her as we began our conversation was, “What has been your plan for child training?” I was referring to both the proactive teaching *and* the disciplinary correction. She seemed almost apologetic as she replied, “Well, I guess that’s part of the problem. We’ve never really had a plan. I’m seeing now that we need one!”

Our book, *The Values-Driven Family*, was originally subtitled, “A Proactive Plan for Successful Biblical Parenting” because it addresses this vital need for proactivity in family living—particularly in the areas of training and discipling our children. If we are going to encourage our children to grow in their relationship with the Lord and in their Christlike character, we have to keep the end in mind and have some idea of the steps that will get us there. Even with a plan in place, it takes consistent implementation—perseverance toward the goal—but of course, if you’re not shooting at a target, you’ll miss it every time.

So let me ask you, do you have a plan for child training? Do you know what you’d like your children to “look” like in one, five, or ten years? And what are you doing *now* to make that goal a reality? Conversely, what are you doing *now* that might be hindering the very outcomes you sincerely desire?

To help you get a feel for where you’re at and where you’re going, take a look at the attached “Family Planner for Character Growth and Development.” As parents, talk about what your goals are in the various areas suggested in the questionnaire, and discuss ways that you can move closer toward those goals. List some concrete action steps that will help you realize your vision for your children and family.

If you’re not sure what proactive parenting “looks” like, or how best to nurture spiritual and character growth in your children, you will find *The Values-Driven Family* to be an invaluable tool in your parenting tool kit. You don’t have to read one book on child training, one on “keeping your child’s heart,” one on building love relationships, and one on home management—we’ve put it all together for you! *VDF* covers foundational elements of successful family living like leadership as well as the nuts-and-bolts of raising kids (training, encouragement/love and discipline). You’ll also get the practical help you need in managing your household on top of it all—you know, budgeting and scheduling. We even cover decision-making, risk management, and more. This is a \$10 investment that could change your family forever! **For more information on *The Values-Driven Family*, as well as informative articles, helpful free downloads, and more, visit us at www.valuesdrivenfamily.com.**



Blessings,

Marc and Cindy Carrier

Family Planner for Character Growth and Development

Action Area	Evaluation (1=Little evidence; 2=Needs some work; 3=Consistent Evidence; 4=Area of Strength)	Action Steps, if any
Children's Knowledge of God's Word	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4	
Children's Character Development: Living the Word of God (Consider values such as <i>Faith, Surrender, Love, Faithfulness, Wisdom, Self-Control, Righteousness, Holiness, Humility, Diligence, Generosity, and Praise</i>)	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4	
Parents' Efforts in Discipleship: Biblical Instruction	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4	
Parents' Efforts in Discipleship: "Teachable Moments"	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4	
Parents' Efforts in Discipleship: Modeling the Word of God	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4	

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