

The Seven “P”s of Parenting



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1 PRAYER

Never underestimate the power of prayer in the life of your children. Pray *for* and *with* them. Prayer is a great way to let your kids know Who is in charge. (Colossians 4:2)

2 PRESENCE

Children spell quality time: Q-U-A-N-T-I-T-Y. Be intentional about establishing everyday routines with your kids, as well as creating special memories with them. If we'll tend to the hours and days, the years will take care of themselves. (Psalm 16:11; Psalm 90:12)

3 PATIENCE

Many of life's oldest lessons are brand new to your children. Treat them the way you'd treat a technologically illiterate employer how to use the latest computer software update—with humility, respect, and genuine gratitude for the opportunity to invest in their life. (Ephesians 4:2; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Proverbs 14:29)

4 PRAISE

All children long for their parents' approval. They *want to please* you—so be sure to let them know when they do! While it's important that we deal swiftly and consistently with our children's wrongful behavior, it's equally important to acknowledge and encourage their good behavior with sincere and appropriate praise. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Proverbs 31:30-31; Romans 14:18-19; Philippians 4:8)

5 PROTECTION

Life is full of dangers—both physical and spiritual. Ask the LORD to help you recognize and stand guard against anything that would pose a threat to your children's wellbeing. Develop a culture of safety and common sense with your kids, and pray that God would grant wisdom and discernment, both to you and to them. (John 17:15; Psalm 127:1; James 1:5)

6 PROVISION

Providing for your children's material needs is important, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. “More money” does not automatically mean “more happiness.” Provide for your children in all aspects of life, through your example and encouragement, as well as their education. Use areas of personal strength to compensate for areas of financial need. (1 Timothy 5:8; Proverbs 20:7; Psalm 37:25)

7 PREPARATION

Three of the most important decisions our children will make are choosing Christ, choosing a career, and choosing their companions. Prepare them to make wise choices in all three areas by setting the example, setting standards, and then setting them free. (Proverbs 3:1-6; Romans 10:9; Psalm 90:17; Proverbs 13:20; John 13:15; John 8:36)