

Bring It Home - Part 1: Connect with the Heart

Ephesians 6:4

First base: Connecting with your heart is the _____ of parenting.

Concepts on Connecting

1. _____ a great relationship with your spouse and children.
The two greatest predictors of high self-esteem are:
 - 1) The quality of the home environment
 - 2) The quality of the parental relationship
2. Connection starts at _____ and continues all through life.
3. The father is the _____ of the home. He sets the direction & the pace.
"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." - Ephesians 6:4
4. Connecting with our kids is like _____ a pregnancy to maturity.
Bring up –
 - "to rear up to maturity" – doesn't stop, a process that continues to maturity
 - "to feed, nourish, nurture" – there is an investment, the giving of life.
 - "to nourish a pregnancy and bring it to birth" - as long as the baby is connected to the mother, it will live and flourish.
5. We cannot connect from afar. We must be up close and _____.
6. _____ the time that you have with your family. Don't view it as a chore.

Practical Ways to Connect

- A. Understand your childrens' _____
 - 1) Physical Touch—appropriate physical contact communicates love.
 - 2) Talking—giving praise and conversing communicates love.
 - 3) Acts of Service—being helped or served communicates love.
 - 4) Giving Gifts
 - 5) Quality Time—spending deliberate, undisturbed time communicates love.
- B. Establish a regular family _____.
- C. Have one family _____ a day.
- D. Build your _____ - Say, "I have a great family."
- E. _____ your kids.
- F. Tell your kids you _____ them and give hugs and kisses!