

PARENTHOOD

“Unchanging Principles of Parenthood”

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:13-16

1. **LOVING TOUCH**

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them...” Mark 10:13

haptomai (hap'-tom-ah-ee): to attach oneself to, **EMBRACE** or touch

“And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.”

Mark 6:56

- Need for appropriate touch dramatically increases for girls during preteen years.
- Girls are touched in appropriate ways five times as often as boys
- Boys need loving touch just as much as girls

2. **ABUNDANT TIME**

“People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me...”

Mark 10:13-14

TIME shelters families

Strategies for protecting time: families and relationships

FAMILY rituals protect time

PLACES protect families

INTERESTS protect families

CELEBRATIONS protect families

STORIES protect families

“What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” James 4:14

3. ENCOURAGING TALK

"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16

How do we become successful encouraging parents?

G ENUINE
E NCOUNTER
M OMENTS

"Genuine Encounter Moments," (GEM) is a powerful way for parents to show their love, and more importantly, for the child to feel loved. Simply put, GEM is a focused attention between the parent and the child, with affection, love and eye contact. The parent is fully present physically, as well as emotionally and mentally. The parent is only focused on the child, not the laundry, work or what's on the news. To the child, time equals love. This is love." (Dorothy Briggs)

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Matthew 3:17

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How were you raised? Did your parents excel in spending time with you, loving touch, or encouraging talk?
2. Think about your relationships. If you are a parent, define where you can improve. Time? Talk? Touch? If you do not have children, answer the previous question regarding other important relationships.