



Best for the Child seminar

Love expressed and
time given to the children

Ruoholahden kappeli, 19.11.2011

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Love and time

- Christian love – unconditional love
- importance of bonding – first smile
- time is money or what?
- investing in the child
- how to make time?
- grasping the moment
- what did Jesus do? How did he meet people.



For God so loved the world

- John 3:16
- unconditional 1 John 4:19
- patient 1 Cor13:4-5 Neh 9:17, doesn't do improper things, behave disgracefully slowly boiling
- kind, friendly, forgiving Ef 4:32
- we should do good Gal 6:10
- good even to unthankful LK 6:35
- not envy, not boast, Matt. 23:5-7
- Jesus put the child first
- does not get bitter or give up
- enduring, believing, hoping, suffering 1 Cor13:7



God does not give up on you

- Goethe: Treat a man after what he seems to be, you make him worse. But treat him as if he was the man he could possibly be, and you will make him to what he should be.
- See God's design in the child



Parenting styles

- Helicopter
- Officer
- Consultant

- what builds up our child's self esteem and character and gives future problem solving skills ?



Tips for parenting

How to get more time together?

- attachment basis for life – needs time
- take the child to tasks at home with you
- try to think of hobbies you can do at home
- strengthen your self esteem – believe in your own way of living, stop comparing with others – the neighbour mom goes to gym every day, so what?



Happiness is small things

- being together, being present,
- gestures, face expressions, friendly words,
- feeling that you have everything necessary here present that you need just now.
- small things are the important ones – slow down



Where to get the strength for parenting?

- take care of yourself –sleep –food-training –rare things when the children are small
- connecting with God and people
- find yourself anew
- God is love – He wanted you here
PS 139:14
- Come to me Matt 11:28-30



Parenting at the speed of life

- is bigger better? – big holiday, huge presents? lots of time?
- how do I use my time
- take care of small things Matt 25:21
- take care of pennies – the dollars will take care of themselves



Pennies = moments you can grasp

- dad, why do you look angry – smile even if you don't have a cause – smile before you enter the child's room
- try to find ways to say as you wish or yes to reasonable requests
- tell good stories of the child's life
- sticky notes – I am happy....



Express love - every moment

- will you come with me on a ride?
- Does your child use e-mail?
- send a post card
- find, stop, hug – connect
- time in a bottle - time can only be saved by creating great memories
- take a positive attitude to interruptions –what is more important than your child?



Just the two of us

- alone at home – just the two of us
- teaching skills
- why questions ?
- funny faces, have fun – what is a bumerang that doesn't function
- do favours – give an example
- what is your child's favourite ...



Me and my family serves God

- take God into your moments – pray for the needs
- tell how God works in your life
- believe in your child – encourage!
- make church day attractive
- traditional moments
- family identity
- sit down – hey, what are you doing? be interested
- compliments don't cost
- love, acceptance and forgiveness
- I was wrong




Skills

- stop – look into eyes -listen to the opinions of your children – belonging
- find subjects for dinner table
- be present whenever you can
- don't miss important moments
- tender wake up
- teach manners...
- ask for forgiveness
- dont scold before others
- be punctual
- time out or a brake ?



Celebrate your children

- Gods creation Ps 139:13-18
- I am here because God wanted Gen 1:26-27
- use birthdays to tell something about the child
- don't throw your child's drawings into garbage – let them choose which one to take away if the fridge door gets crowded
- show empathy
- child's music in the car
- sweets? games
- would you play with me – take a brake



Love expressed: how does the child know you love him/her?

- eye contact
 - touch –hug, rub
 - undivided attention – listen, the child needs you
-
- meeting the child's needs
 - teaching skills for life -explain
 - boundaries
 - guidance
 - protection



Needs

- belong to someone
- belong to something
- be somebody



Safety with clear rools

- clear rools, set limits, loose up when the child grows
- hold, stop, comfort
- be consistent and explain
- earn childs respect with love
- child testes rules with eg. manipulation
- bad behaviour is a question – does anybody care – see the child when she/he is behaving well
- ask the children what the punishment should be
- follow up – are the rules followed?
- see things ahead
- check that the child can keep the boundaries, change if needed



Encourage to skills

- respect the child's need to do herself
- help in too big challenges
- frustration – learn to wait, to lose
- let also learn from mistakes
- emphatic critic – child's view
- hopeful attitude for life
- suitable challenges
- give chances to choose and to say no
- teach not to get manipulated
- less services with growing up – what skills does your child have when leaving home?



Routines

- More time in the morning- set the clock earlier
- bed times, meal times
- routines give safety



Good books to read

- Seija Sihvola Voimaa vanhemmuuteen, Ajatus Kirjat 2002
- Saara Kinnunen, Anna minun olla lapsi, Kirjapaja 2010
- David Goodwin, At the foot of the Cross
- Helicopters, Drill sergeants and Consultants
- Vastuullinen vanhemmuus, Raittiuden Ystävät ry & Etra, Kirjatoimi