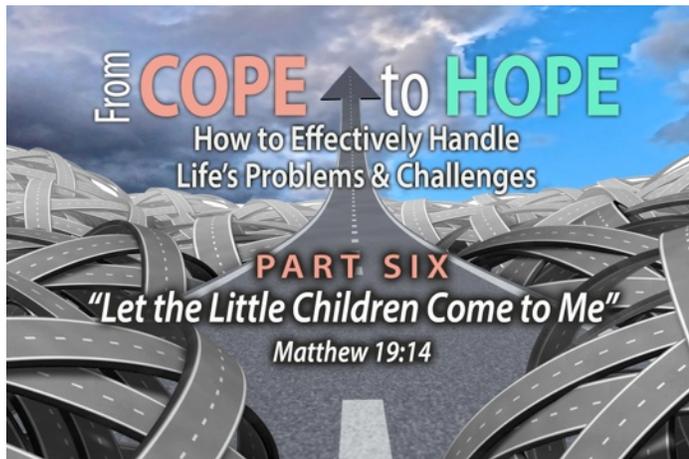


From Cope To Hope: How to Effectively Handle Life's Problems & Challenges

Part 6, "Let The Little Children Come to Me"

Pastor Bryan Hudson | www.NewCovenant.org



Matthew 19:13 *Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." 15 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.*

Prov 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Ephesians 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up** in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

Prov. 1: 8 *My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother*

Matthew 18:6, *"If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

Successful parenting requires attention to all levels of life, from the social, to the emotional, to the physical, to the financial, to the spiritual. There is no greater reality than the Kingdom of God. There is no greater truth than the Word of God. There is no great person than the Lord Jesus Christ. The time, effort and expense we expend to train our children in these principles and to know Christ personally, is our greatest investment.

[From a scientific perspective](#), it is well known that early brain development in children is influenced by words and experiences, both good and bad.

Early stimulation sets the stage for how children will learn and interact with others throughout life. A child's experiences, good or bad, influence the wiring of his brain and the connection in his nervous system. Loving interactions with caring adults strongly stimulate a child's brain, causing synapses to grow and existing connections to get stronger. Connections that are used become permanent. If a child receives little stimulation early on, the synapses will not develop, and the brain will make fewer connections. (<http://umaine.edu/publications/4356e/>) | [Watch video about child brain development](#)

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me." Science confirms what we already know: It is essential to provide love, care, and good, godly experiences for children. Exposing children to bad experiences and foolishness can be harmful to their future.

We need to nurture and train children. Nurture means: care, provide conditions for growth, feed, train, develop, cultivate, monitor environmental conditions. Training involves teaching in a way to develop skills and good habits. Training results in heart and brain development that always remains, such as learning to ride a bicycle.

Bad behavior can also be trained: 2 Peter 2:14, *having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls. **They have a heart trained** in covetous practices, and are accursed children.*

Children, to fruitful purpose with these seven nurture keys:

1 - Motivate • Teach the importance of taking the initiative to get things done. Don't wait for others. Don't wait for signs. Understand how to be led by the inward witness and take initiative to get things done.

- 1 Chr 28:10, *Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.*
Deut 1:21, *Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.*
- I Cor 16:13, *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*

- Eph 6:10 , *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

2 - Stimulate • Provide positive, godly and excellent examples of people and fruitful action. Grow in confidence through confronting and prevailing in the challenges of life.

- Jer 18:2, *Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.*
- Luk 6:40, *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*
- Joh 13:14, *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15) For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*
- Heb 12:11, *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

3 - Activate • Get busy with tasks, chores, assignments, etc.

- Prov 12:24, *The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor.*
- Prov 13:4, *the soul of a sluggard desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.*

4 - Create • Learn how to solve problems through creative thinking. Produce good things through the use of ones' mind and hands.

- Exo 31:3, *And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 4) to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 5) in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.*
- Eph 4:28, *Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:10 *and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; 11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, 12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.*

5 - Investigate • Study all subjects that impact your life.

- Prov 25:2, *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

6 - Educate • Master the tools of learning including, math, grammar, composition, reading with comprehension

- Dan1:17, *As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom;*
- Prov 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*
- Eph 6:4, *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* Training comes from what one practices:
- 2 Peter 2:14, *having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls. They have a heart **trained in covetous practices**, and are accursed children.*

7 - Consecrate • Live in the presence of God and with the knowledge of His will. Separate yourself unto Him and highly value your time with Him in prayer and worship.

- Prov 4:23, *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*
- Prov 8:17, *I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.*
- John 15:7, *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*
- Col 3:17, *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
- John 15:7, *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*
- **Boys want to be like their fathers. Girls want to be like their Mothers. So parents, what are you like?**