

# HOPE FOR MY FAMILY

## Hope for the Future: Part 4

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*“LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is.” (Psalm 39:4, NLT)*

### 4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

1. **PREPARE** your kids for life.
2. **PROTECT** your kids in storms.
3. **PLAY** with your kids for fun.
4. **POINT** your kids to God.

## 5 KEYS TO POSITIVE PARENTING

### 1. ACCEPT THEIR **UNIQUENESS**.

*“In this way Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, “No, the LORD hasn’t chosen any of these.” Then he asked him, “Have you any more sons?” Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep.” “Tell him to come here”...” So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The LORD said to Samuel, “This is the one—anooint him!”” (1 Samuel 16:10–12, GNB)*

*“One of his attendants said, “Jesse, of the town of Bethlehem, has a son who is a good musician. He is also a brave and handsome man, a good soldier, and an able speaker. The LORD is with him.”” (1 Samuel 16:18, GNB)*

*“Train a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not turn away from it.” (Proverbs 22:6, GW)*

*“Love does not demand its own way.” (1 Corinthians 13:5b, The Living Bible)*

### 2. AFFIRM THEIR **VALUE**.

*“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.” (Psalm 139:13–14, NLT)*

*“Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a real blessing.” (Psalm 127:3, GNB)*

### HOW DOES OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DO IT?

*“He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head!” (Matthew 10:30, The Message)*

*“I drew them to me with affection and love. I picked them up and held them to my cheek; I bent down to them and fed them.” (Hosea 11:4, GNB)*

*“...you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.” (Isaiah 43:4, NLT)*

*“...a word of encouragement does wonders!” (Proverbs 12:25, The Living Bible)*

### **3. TRUST THEM WITH RESPONSIBILITY.**

*“As the time of King David’s death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon: “I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. Take courage and be a man. Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go. If you do this, then the LORD will keep the promise he made to me. He told me, ‘If your descendants live as they should and follow me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.’”...“Then David died and was buried with his ancestors in the City of David...Solomon became king and sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.” (1 Kings 2:1-4, 10–12, NLT)*

*“Whoever can be trusted with a little can also be trusted with a lot...And if you cannot be trusted with things that belong to someone else, who will give you things of your own?” (Luke 16:12, NCV)*

### **4. CORRECT WITHOUT CONDEMNING.**

*“Now his father, King David, had never disciplined [Adonijah] at any time—not so much as by a single scolding! He was a very handsome man and was Absalom’s younger brother.” (1 Kings 1:6, The Living Bible)*

*“Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don’t, you are helping them to destroy themselves.” (Proverbs 19:18, GNB)*

*“Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.” (Proverbs 13:24, NLT)*

*“And now a word to you parents. Don’t keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice.” (Ephesians 6:4, The Living Bible)*

### **5. LOVE THEM UNCONDITIONALLY.**

*“The king was overcome with emotion. He went up to the room over the gateway and burst into tears. And as he went, he cried, “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! O Absalom, my son, my son.”” (2 Samuel 18:33, NLT)*

*“Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything.” (1 Corinthians 13:7, Phillips)*

*“The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end; I will keep for ever my promise of peace.” So says the LORD who loves you.” (Isaiah 54:10, GNB)*

**ACTION STEP:**  
**FAMILY DEDICATION**