

5-Day Devotional: Parenting with Eternal Purpose

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Day 1: Foundation Work That Lasts

Reading: Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Devotional: Building a skyscraper requires extensive foundation work including digging deep, pouring concrete, laying rebar. Nobody celebrates these hidden efforts, yet they determine whether the structure withstands storms. Parenting operates similarly. The bedtime prayers, dinner conversations, car rides, and consistent presence may feel repetitive and invisible, but they're laying spiritual foundations that can support generations you'll never meet. Before faith transfers to your children, it must live authentically in you. Children absorb atmosphere more than lectures. When prayer, worship, forgiveness, and humility become normal in your home, they become formative in young hearts. You're not just managing behavior. You're shaping souls for eternity.

Reflection: What spiritual atmosphere are you creating in your home? What one consistent practice could you implement this week to strengthen your family's foundation?

Day 2: Beyond Behavior to the Heart

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:7; Ephesians 6:4

Devotional: We naturally measure parenting success by outward compliance: respectful children, good grades, staying out of trouble. But God looks deeper. You can raise polite, talented, accomplished children who never develop personal relationships with Jesus. Good behavior isn't the same as spiritual maturity. God calls us to move beyond "Did you obey?" to "What's happening in your heart?" Behavior can be externally managed while hearts remain internally disconnected. Your assignment transcends producing compliant children as you're preparing disciples who will one day walk with God independently. This requires intentional formation, not just rules enforcement. Children don't need perfect parents; they need genuine ones who model humility, admit mistakes, seek forgiveness, and demonstrate their own dependence on Jesus.

Reflection: Are you focusing more on your children's behavior or their heart transformation? How can you create space for deeper spiritual conversations this week?

Day 3: Discipline Wrapped in Grace

Reading: Hebrews 12:6; Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 29:17

Devotional: Parenting requires delicate balance. Some homes have rules without relationship; others have affection without boundaries. Neither reflects God's heart. He models both love and correction simultaneously. Correction without relationship breeds rebellion. Children raised feeling constantly criticized, emotionally unsafe, or never good enough learn obedience rooted in fear rather than trust. Conversely, grace without boundaries creates chaos. Children need loving structure, wisdom, and guidance. Healthy discipline teaches, restores, guides, and builds. Notice that it never humiliates, crushes, or shames. The goal isn't control but preparation. Like training wheels on a bicycle, discipline provides temporary support while character develops internally.

Eventually, your children will make decisions without you present. Discipline prepares them for that independence. Jesus rewrites family stories. You don't have to repeat harmful patterns you experienced.

Reflection: Does your discipline reflect both God's love and His correction? Where might you need to adjust—adding more grace or more structure?

Day 4: Preparing for Purpose in a Confused Culture

Reading: Psalm 78:4-7; Colossians 2:6-7; Jeremiah 29:11

Devotional: Faith doesn't transfer genetically. Every generation must intentionally pass it forward. Your children live in a spiritually confusing world facing temptation, identity confusion, cultural hostility toward truth, and constant pressure. They need more than inspiration. They need deep roots. Culture celebrates achievement; God values character. Talent without integrity, charisma without holiness, success without wisdom will all collapse under pressure. Teach honesty, humility, purity, generosity, kindness, perseverance, and forgiveness. These Kingdom qualities sustain what talent alone cannot. Every child carries God-given design. Part of parenting involves helping them discover how God uniquely created them and not forcing them into your dreams. Prepare them to pray, read Scripture, hear God's voice, repent, and trust Him personally. Culture aggressively disciplines children through screens, music, influencers, and entertainment. The question isn't whether they're being disciplined, but who's disciplining them.

Reflection: What intentional steps are you taking to disciple your children? How are you helping them discover their God-given purpose?

Day 5: Faithful Stewardship and Hopeful Release

Reading: Luke 15:17-24; Colossians 2:6-7

Devotional: One of parenting's hardest moments is releasing. Watching them drive away, move out, make independent decisions. It feels terrifying because we love them deeply. But remember children belong to God before they belong to us. We're stewards, not owners. Our assignment is faithfulness, not perfection. Some carry heavy burdens today as they continue praying for prodigals, children far from God making destructive choices. Don't lose hope. The prodigal son still had a waiting father, and God still reaches wandering hearts. Grace changes stories. Never stop praying or believing. Every prayer matters. Every conversation matters. Every act of consistency matters. You may not see immediate results, but God works in ways you cannot always see. You're not raising children. You're raising future adults who need Jesus. The world needs purposeful parents who model authentic faith, extend grace, teach truth, and prepare children for God's purpose. His grace is sufficient for your family.

Reflection: Are you carrying worry about your children? Surrender them afresh to God today. What specific breakthrough are you believing Him for in your family?