

**Introduction: What counsel would you and Theresa pass on to  
parents and grandparents?**

- <sup>1</sup> *Unless the LORD builds a house,  
the work of the builders is wasted.  
Unless the LORD protects a city,  
guarding it with sentries will do no good.*
- <sup>2</sup> *It is useless for you to work so hard  
from early morning until late at night,  
anxiously working for food to eat;  
for God gives rest to His loved ones.*
- <sup>3</sup> *Children are a gift from the LORD;  
they are a reward from Him.*
- <sup>4</sup> *Children born to a young man  
are like arrows in a warrior's hands.*
- <sup>5</sup> *How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!  
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his  
accusers at the city gates.*

Psalm 127:1-5 (NLT)

Children are a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord!

### 3 Questions that have shaped our parenting & grandparenting

#### 1. What's my #1 \_\_\_\_\_?

*Fathers, don't over-correct your children or make it difficult for them to obey the commandment. Bring them up with Christian teaching in Christian discipline.*

Ephesians 6:4 (J.B. Phillips Translation)

- The principle of \_\_\_\_\_
- God's dream vs. the American dream for your child

#### 2. What's my #1 \_\_\_\_\_?

*<sup>14</sup> I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. <sup>15</sup> Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup> Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NIV)

- The principle of \_\_\_\_\_
- "More is caught than taught"

3. What's my #1 \_\_\_\_\_?

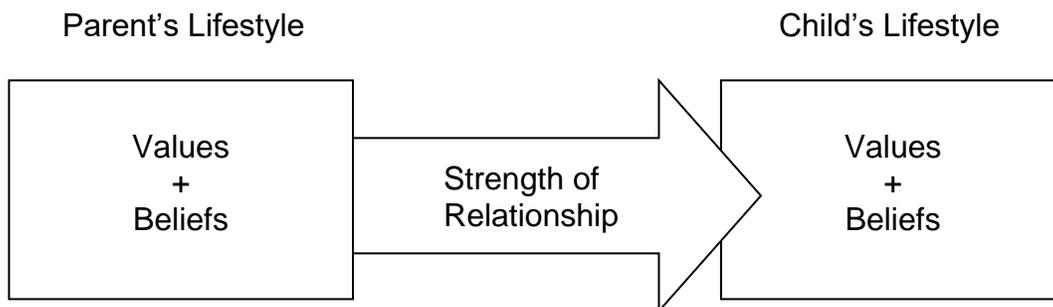
*Just as a nursing mother cares for her children,<sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.*

1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8 (NIV)

*<sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory.*

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)

- The principle of \_\_\_\_\_



**8 “keys” that build relationships that bond**

1. Express unconditional \_\_\_\_\_
2. Scheduled \_\_\_\_\_
3. Focused \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ contact
5. Consistent \_\_\_\_\_
6. Meaningful \_\_\_\_\_
7. Have \_\_\_\_\_ together
8. \_\_\_\_\_ together often

**Maybe post this in a handy place:**

Remember.....	
Express unconditional <u>LOVE</u>	Consistent <u>COMMUNICATION</u>
Scheduled <u>TIME</u>	Meaningful <u>TOUCH</u>
Focused <u>ATTENTION</u>	Have <u>FUN</u> together
<u>EYE</u> contact	<u>PRAY</u> together often

## Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how positive a parent or grandparent are you?
2. Discuss which point was most helpful to you. Why?
3. What is your current biggest challenge as a parent or grandparent?
4. Where do you need to focus some parenting or grandparenting energy? What specifically will the next step look like?
5. What book, class, or small group would best equip you to become the parent or grandparent you want to become?