



Biblical Parenting Principles For The Classroom



Establishing
congruency
between
home and
school in the
training of
children.



Introduction.

Since 'Growing Kids God's Way' (now called 'Along the Virtuous Way') was introduced in Australia, hundreds of families have benefited from the Bible-based parenting guidance provided by that course. However, we are all aware that children spend approximately 25% of their school-age lives away from the direct influence of parents, while attending school. This means that teachers, who act in locum parentis, can have an enormous impact whilst children are in their care.

Recognising the opportunity to support teachers in their task of guiding young lives, GFA has developed a professional development course (based on GKGW), aimed at bringing a new degree of unity of purpose between parents and teachers. We believe that bringing these groups together can only benefit our children, as we seek to reach them for Christ. The course is called Biblical Parenting Principles for the Classroom (hereafter termed BPPC).

Prior to 2001, the GKGW course had been presented with great effect in a number of schools, especially in Western Australia. From 2001 to early 2004, the BPPC course has been refined and trialed. It is now ready to present to the Australia-wide audience of Christian Schools.

Mission Statement.

BPPC seeks to fulfil the Growing Families International vision by:

1. Supporting parents in the total parenting/education process and so develop complete congruence between home and the school.
2. Equipping teachers in Christian Schools to be better teachers through an understanding of Biblical parenting principles.
3. Encouraging teaching in the nurturing of the whole child i.e. spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally socially and morally.
4. Ensuring the consistency and continuity of nurture through ongoing training of teachers.
5. Providing support materials and training for parenting course presentation in school communities.

Course Structure.

As noted, the in-service course uses GKGW as its foundation. The program for the course is presented in four segments, as follows.

1. Introduction.
Firm Foundations.
Right Beginnings.
The Early Years.
The Moral Reason Why.
The Child's Moral Character.
2. The Touch Points of Love.
Character Development.
Principles of Obedience.

3. Discipline – Encouragement and Correction.
Repentance, Forgiveness and Restoration.
The Appeal Process.

4. Transferring Responsibility.
Relational Authority.
Understanding Maturity and Adolescents.
The Healthy Classroom.
Review and Evaluation.

The course material is a well balanced mix of theory and practice. The developers were concerned to ensure the course content is applicable in the classroom, immediately and for the longer term. To facilitate this, considerable time is spent on working through case studies taken from real-life school situations, and preparing policy guidelines in workshop situations.

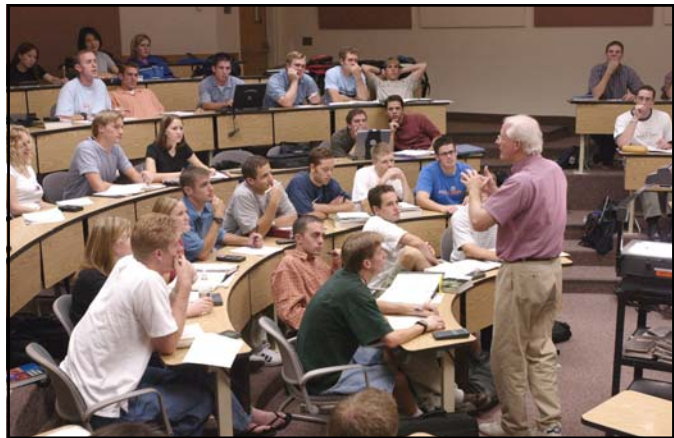
The BPPC course is suitable for both primary and secondary school teachers. It would also be valuable for other institutions such as Sunday Schools and the pre-school/child-care facilities.

Course Presentation.

The above segments allow the course to be presented in a number of different formats:

1. Two consecutive, full days.
2. Two consecutive half days, preferably mornings.
3. One full day and evening.

Option 1 is the strongly preferred format since it allows the full development of principles and provides ample time for case study discussion and workshop interaction. It also facilitates the completion of mandatory reading and homework examples.



Options 2 and 3 necessarily have shortened opportunities for the discussion and application interaction, which is an important facet of the course.

The course is presented by experienced GFA personnel and/or educators. All presenters are accredited by Growing Families Australia to ensure the presentation truly reflects GFA vision and mission statements, and that the highest professional standards are maintained.

The in-service course is delivered as a power point presentation, or by overhead projector if a data projector is not available. This material is augmented by video/DVD clips. Printed notes, in the form of a handbook, are provided for each participant. The handbook contains course details, case studies, workshop material and classroom resources.

Course Evaluation and Follow-up.

We have treated the matter of follow-up as an important part of the whole course because we know that the implementation of theory is always difficult. We have dealt with this in two main ways. Firstly, the course has been designed to have a significant component of ‘think this through’ and ‘how does this work in practice’ elements via case studies, workshop scenarios and interaction opportunities.



Secondly, we believe in encouraging participants through on ongoing interest in them. This is done through a follow-up survey form and we will provide, by negotiation, a short follow-up course where this is seen to be appropriate.

Costs.

It is mandatory for all participants to have their own copy of the 'Along the Virtuous Way' manual, currently priced at \$35. GFA believes the manual, as well as providing background for the BPPC course, will remain an outstanding future resource for all participants. The manuals are provided well ahead of the course to facilitate the pre-course reading requirements.

Other costs, including those associated with the presenters, photocopying handout material, and the like, are borne by each participating school. Because of our desire to see the program in as many schools as possible, costs of presenting the program are negotiable according to the size and geographic location of the school.



Contacts.

Mrs Joan Grosser
National Director, Growing Families Australia
Ph. 08 9444 2070 or 08 9446 1671
Email: national.directors@gfi.org.au

Mr Tony Nott - presenter
Ph. 02 6584 2186
Email: tsnott@tsn.cc

Conclusion.

We would see that providing insights into Bible-based parenting principles is a new and dynamic way of encouraging and equipping Christian teachers for their vital task in shaping young lives. With our society straining under the pressure of change, and more and more parents struggling in raising responsive and responsible children, we see the BPPC in-service program becoming an increasingly important developmental tool for Christian schools and their staff.

We warmly encourage you to consider this course and invite you to find out more through the above contacts.

Bill & Joan Grosser
National Directors

GROWING FAMILIES AUSTRALIA
PO Box 1531, Osborne Park, Western Australia, 6916.
Phone/Fax: (08) 9446 1671
Email: enquiries@gfi.org.au Website: www.gfi.org.au

