



Growing Families Australia

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Reaching our nation one family at a time

Inside:

- Sincere friends
- Who are you thinking of?
- Help for the worrier...
- And more...

Keep us up-to-date!

- Are you changing your email?
- Have a new telephone number?
- Planning to move in the next few months?

We would love to know your new details so we can keep you informed & connected with the Growing Families family! Email us on enquiries@gfi.org.au

Parenting with a purpose Passing the faith along

So what does this mean for your family - your parenting journey - your local community? Come along to the National Conference in Queensland to see this unpacked.

As an update on the conference:

- Alex Park on site accommodation has been sold out.
- Offsite accommodation options are available - they are close by!!!
- The GFA website has details on discounts available for local accommodation.
- Given the timing of the conference - we encourage you to get your off site accommodation booked and register soon.
- We have ~360 people registered.
- Registrations have slowed a little - but are continuing to come in.
- The kids and crèche programs are well under development - and looking very exciting.

- Your NC14 team are continuing to get things sorted - please continue to pray for us.
- DON'T FORGET THE TEENS CAMP (yes we know Naomi - you are super excited and counting sleeps...)
- Elective topics should be available soon - we will keep in you informed.

As the time gets closer every day we are getting very excited about the catching up with "old friends", making new ones and just being blessed by being together.

Loving you in Christ doing His work.

Geoff & Alicia and the rest of the NC14 workers

Key Principle - The Toddlerhood Transition

There is no better way to deal with problems than by preventing them from happening in the first place (prevention is better than the cure).

Understanding the working components of instruction, encouragement & correction will help keep your toddler on track and heading in the right direction.

Encouragement comes in many forms including praise, verbal and physical affirmation and rewards.

Correction helps put the child back on track when his little hands or feet wander off to places they shouldn't be.

Couch Time



In a review of the family - talk about each child and see how you are going. Are there areas that require a bit more attention - are there praise points for issues re-solved and under control?

Then talk about what the plan is to continue the journey... what course may be beneficial...

COMMUNITY

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour.

James 3:18 (msg)



Sincere Friends – Superficial Friends

Sheri Rose Shepherd – from LISTS to live by

Sincere

Know my feelings
Reveal to me how they feel
Teach me about myself
Are comfortable with silence
Feel free to tell me the truth
Give me the freedom to fail
Love me for who I am



Superficial

Know only the facts about me
Tell me what they've done
Tell me about others
Feel awkward with silence
Would leave me if I let them down
Love me for what I can do



Prayer: Lord, teach us to pray – Luke 11:1

The disciples were humble enough to ask Jesus how to pray. Teaching our children to pray is not too hard when they are little, as they grow giving your children some more understanding of the importance will help them adopt and own their own prayer life.

Prayer is an act of dedication

We depend on God (we need his help)
We are devoted to God (we love him)

Prayer is an act of communication

You cannot have a relationship without communication – so talk with God
We can be Jesus' friend (see John 15:15)

Prayer is an act of supplication

Do not be anxious about anything, but in prayer... (see Phil 4:6-7)
Check out Ps 145:19, Ps 37:4, Ps 84:11

Prayer is an act of cooperation

When you pray you let God work through you!
Check out John 14:11-14.



Parenting
with Purpose

Passing the
faith along

National
Family
Conference

13 – 16th
April 2014

Sunshine
Coast
Queensland



Terrific Toddlers (or Tantrum Free Two's - Almost!)

The refreshing message of Terrific Toddlers is that as a parent, you can make a difference in your toddler's behaviour. In this straightforward and practical book, Mel Hayde is profoundly positive, encouraging mums to proactively guide and train their children.

She firmly believes in the calm consistency of a flexible routine. In this environment, mothers more frequently feel calm and in control, and toddlers can learn the self-control they require to play happily with others and alone, to share, to be polite and to obey.

Terrific Toddlers will inspire you to make a difference in your home - establishing a degree of order that suits your lifestyle and personality, and giving your children the lifelong gift of learning to control their words and actions. The needs of all family members are met, and the joy of parenting becomes a reality. Be positive and proactive, and enjoy your toddler!



Making Parenting Practical - Who Are You Thinking Of?

From Moms Notes Newsletter – Oct 2012

We thought we were teaching our children to put the needs of others first, according to the commandment found in Luke 10:27: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself."

When we took Growing Kids God's Way and learned the six areas and groups of people our kids needed to show honour and respect to we discovered all our previous efforts had been haphazard at best.

Another way of saying this is children need to show others they are precious to them. What are the six areas and groups of people parents should teach their kids to show 'preciousness' to? All of us should treat the elderly, our parents and people in authority with respect and honour. Add peers (neighbours) and siblings to this group and nature (plants and animals) and property (yours and others) and we have enough to work on for life.

Interestingly enough, the one group of people God does not command us to love is ourselves. Why do you think this is? In the verse quoted above He says to love your neighbour as yourself. What is implied here is the simple fact we already love ourselves. God gave each of us a love for ourselves at birth. If we did not love ourselves, we would not protect ourselves from harm and we would not have a reference point from which to love others.

How can you train your kids to think of others,

especially in the culture of entitlement (being told we deserve everything we want without working for it) we live in? You will be surprised to find how simple this can be by using one phrase.

Next time your kids are headed for trouble, pull them aside one-by-one and ask this question: "Who are you thinking of right now?" Your child will respond he is thinking of himself. Ask him who he should be thinking of. He will respond he should be thinking of others.

Given the circumstance your child is in at the moment, gets specifics. Ask him who he should be thinking about right now. (The sibling he just hit; the sister whose toy he just broke, even accidentally; you, for not taking the trash out.)

Then ask him to think of one way he can show this person he is willing to put their needs above his own. When your child comes up with something, ask him if he is willing to do it right then. If he says "No," he gets to sit and do nothing (including talk and get out of the chair) until he is willing to do what he came up with. Unless your child is under five years of age, resist the temptation to tell him what he could do to show 'preciousness' to the one he offended.

After you have been working on this for a while, all you will need to do is whisper in their ear, "Who are you thinking of right now?" or "Who should you be thinking of right now?" and more often than not, your child will change the direction he is headed in.



National Teens Camp

**10 – 13th
April 2014**

**Sunshine
Coast
Queensland**



Gods Promise

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to you
Move out of "camp complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky

We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
Zion waits in glory... where none are ever sad!

"I am too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

Balm for the soul

help for the worrier

This may make a great personal reflection time, couch time topic (for a longer one :-)) or even a devotion for one of your children.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by thy name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our **daily bread**.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Three keys to overcome anxiety, worry, stress...

1. Ask for God's assistance [Give us...]

You do not have, because you do not ask God (*James 4:2*)
God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (*Philippians 4:19*)

2. Remember God's resources [... daily bread]

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (*Romans 8:32*)

3. Trust God's timing [...today...]

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(*Philippians 4:6-7*)

So be open, who of your parents was most prone to worry? Who do you take after? Who of your parents was most patient? Who do you take after?

So dig a little. Read *Philippians 4:6*. What are we told to do to relieve stress and worry? If God knows what we need, why do we have to ask? (See *Romans 8:32*, *Philippians 4:19*, *James 4:19*)

So now reflect. What worries do you need to bring to Jesus? Where do you need to exercise more faith? Will you?

From a sermon from John Hoogenhout (BPPC in Qld).

