



MACHE 2009 Annual Conference Friday Workshops

Workshop: Preschoolers and Primaries

Speaker: Miriam Heppner ~ Mom of 17 ~ Grandma of 5!

Session: I **Time:** 10:30 am

- A Balanced Biblical Approach

Well-meaning parents with good intentions...

Result: Children totally out of control or robots with no soul (life-less, downcast)?

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives liberally to all and reproaches (discredits, disgraces) not - and he is given." - James 1:5

**A balanced approach – Compromise or accuracy?
How can we know what that "perfect" balance is?**



"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." - Matt. 6:33-34

What is "the kingdom of God"?

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one" answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'" - Mark 12:28-33

Does my "neighbor" and "the kingdom of God" include my kids??

"But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." - Mark 10:14

**Our focus should not be a short-sighted one of having "good kids" (which is convenient and impressive), but rather, Godly adults. We are raising our grandchildren's parents.
Is the atmosphere of my home what I want for my grandchildren?**

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:18*

'... the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world' US poet WW Ross (1819-1881)

"You brought me out of the womb; to trust in you at my mother's breasts... From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me..." - Ps. 22:9-11

Early picture for child's heart of our Abba, Father's love, security, nourishment...

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Relationship/Connection/Trust Vital for Straight A's

- A - Safe place to learn
- A - Responsive student
- A - Respected teacher

HOW???

"Do not provoke your children to wrath: but nurture them (nourish soulically and mentally) in the discipline (to tutor; may or may not include punishment) and admonition of the Lord." - Ephesians 6:4

How do we provoke, frustrate and exasperate our children?

- Apathetic or Strict
- Being their buddy or opponent
- Coddling or abandoning
- Droopy or hyper

"Rules without relationship breeds rebellion. Relationship without rules breeds disrespect."

How can we nurture our children?

Refer to Checklist (page 4)

How does God parent us?

Heb. 12:5-7 "My son, neither disregard the Lord's discipline, nor weaken when he reproves you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes every son he receives."

Endure discipline God offers you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

"The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save, He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing" Zephaniah 3:17

Are my children a blessing or burden? Do I delight in them?

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
Love the LORD God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.
And these words, which I command you this day, become in your heart:
And teach them diligently to your children, and talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.
And bind them for a sign on your hand, and to become protection between your eyes. And
inscribe them upon the posts of your house, and your gates [your "enter" and "exit"].*

What is the one command given specifically to children?

"Children obey your parents..." - Come alongside children and help them succeed.

Does my child respect my word?

Train to obey FIRST with practical chores, using step-by step instructions, to build tools in mind for the learning process and for hands-on discipline development.

Constructive criticism encouragement is very important. Praise and appreciation are essential!
Recent Study - Children raised in families with strong spiritual values are healthier and happier than their counterparts.

1. I need to fully own what I want to impart to my children. **(Example is best teacher!)**
 - **Are the lives we're living today, what we want for our children when they are older?**
2. I should teach my children diligently – continuity and consistency is best.
 - **Am I willing to be diligent in Godly training and instruction?**
3. Talk about God's ways throughout the day in the context of everyday life.
 - **Do we provide real-life adventures for our children by including them in our lives?**Real-life learning is best for young children - Integrate learning with real life.
Real-life learning builds life-long learners.

"When your son asks..." "We do this because..." (Examples: Exodus 12:26-27, 13:8&14)

Teachable moments are irreplaceable – Do I utilize opportunities for instruction wisely?

Engage your child in your life, your activities and projects, and encourage questions.
Establish family traditions that generate curiosity.

"...God is trustworthy who does not allow you to be tested beyond your ability." 1 Cor. 10:13

Continually adjust expectations according to children's capabilities.
Stretch them? YES, but not to the exasperation or breaking point!

NEVER MAKE A CHILD FEEL STUPID!

How are young children best instructed (so as not to exasperate them)?

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" Isaiah 28:10

1. Teach one concept (or rule) at a time.
2. Build each new concept on a previously learned concept.
(For the abstract to become concrete, we need to begin with the concrete.)
 - **Have I begun the building process with a foundation of understanding?**
 - **Have I provided a purpose for learning (enough understanding for questions to develop?)**
3. Review continually.
4. **KISS – (Keep it short - Keep it simple!)**

How do I actually school my little one?

**How can I constructively occupy my preschoolers while I am schooling my older children?
What about ADHD?**

Recommended Resources:

Under Loving Command
Correcting Children Correctly
Proverbs for Parenting
Shepherding a Child's Heart
Home Grown Kids by the Moores

Things We Wish We'd Known

Slow and Steady Get Me Ready
Language and Thinking for Young Children
The Three R's
Alpha Phonics
Pre-Math-it w/Math-it

OPTIMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST

Do you want to create an atmosphere where your child can flourish, not only in knowledge, but also in wisdom? Do you want to protect your child from preventable, debilitating learning disabilities? Are you looking for tools to cultivate the learning process? This checklist will assist you in nurturing the precious life(s) God has entrusted to you...realizing that:

1. **Spiritual** forces are at work in this world. **Am I making prayer a top priority?**
2. **Example** is the most effective teacher. **Am I choosing to be a good example?**
3. **Training** is the foundation for effective instruction. **Am I properly training my child?**
4. **Love** builds us up. **Do I express physical, verbal and emotional love?**
5. **Encouragement** is more effective than discouragement. **Do I emphasize the positive more than the negative?**
6. **Physical** well-being makes learning easier. **Do I watch for possible problems (ie. eyesight, hearing...)?**
7. **Nutrition** affects us. **Am I using a variety of natural foods?**
8. **Influences** also affect us. **Am I providing Godly influence; eliminating destructive influences?**
9. **Attention** spans develop. **Do I use good books, audios, limit videos and limit distractions?**
10. **High Energy** levels are common with children. **Do I encourage activities to expend excess energy with regular exercise?**
11. **Fun** learning activities build a love for learning. **Do I find ways to make learning fun?**
12. **Inspiring** a love for learning builds life-long learners. **Do I inspire my child by example in attitude and action?**
13. **Real-Life** hands-on activities are best for young children. **Do I provide learning adventures regularly?**
14. **Music** builds tools for the learning process. **Do I provide positive experiences (listening and participating)?**
15. **Stories** are powerful communicating agents. **Am I reading good character building stories and poetry to my child?**
16. **Interaction** is an important element. **Do I encourage the give and take of communication? Do I utilize "teachable moments", (remembering that writing is talking on paper)?**
17. **Different** children develop in different ways and in different time frames. **Do I make allowances for my child's uniqueness?**
18. **Earlier** is not necessarily better when it comes to academics. **Am I expecting too much too soon?**
19. **Childishness** is a stage not a sickness. **Do I try to experience (see, hear and feel) life as he does?**
20. **The Word** is alive and powerful. **Is Bible memory a priority?** (Regular memorization significantly raises IQ's, and receiving God's Word increases wisdom and understanding.)
21. **From the heart** flow the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23) **Am I caring for my child's heart?**
22. **Time** rushes by so fast. **Am I enjoying my child TODAY? (This too shall pass!-)**

