

**How to Prepare Your Kids to
Win Life's Biggest Battles**
Selected Scriptures

Series: Effective Parenting In A Defective World- Part 4

Introduction

“Five Smooth Stones”

God has been in the business of helping children defeat the “evil giants” in their world for a long time.

1. Teach Them to Suffer Well

A Theology of Suffering:

- Life is hard, but God is good!
- Life is unjust, but God is sovereign.
- Old Testament Roots – Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
- New Testament Command – 1 Peter 2:21-23

Application: Help your child grow through suffering.

Life message: Suffering is Normal!

2. Teach Them to Work “Unto the Lord”

A Theology of Work:

- Work is a “calling”, not a job
- All work is sacred.
- Our work is to flow from God’s unique design and purpose for our lives.
- Work is for one audience; the “audience of one.”

- Old Testament Roots – Genesis 2:15
- New Testament Command – Colossians 3:23

Application: Help your child discover “God’s calling” for their life so they can impact their world and beyond.

Life Message: You Were Created to Work!

3. Teach Them to Manage Their Lives Wisely

A Theology of Stewardship:

- God owns everything.
- God has entrusted us “things” to manager for Him (time, talent, treasure)
- God expects a positive return on His investment.
- God will hold you accountable.
- God wants you to share in His joy.
- Old Testament Roots – Genesis 1:26-28
- New Testament Command – Matthew 25:14-30

Application: Help your child become faithful in the “little things” – Luke 16:10

Life Message: Your Life is a Sacred Stewardship!

4. Teach Them to Make Wise Choices

A Theology of Holiness:

- God is high, holy, “totally other.”
- God is absolute truth.
- God’s Word defines absolute truth.
- God’s law (morals) is for our protection.
- God’s ultimate aim is to make us holy.
- Old Testament Roots – Exodus 3:5-6
- New Testament Command – 1 Peter 1:15-16

Application: Help your child to discern good from evil.

Life Message: Holy living allows you to experience God's best for your life.

5. Teach Them to Live Grace-Filled Lives

A Theology of Grace:

- Grace is the unmerited and unconditional love of God toward us.
- Grace is free to us, but costly to God.
- The cross is God's greatest act of grace.
- Salvation is a free gift from God.
- Grace must be received – i.e. faith.
- Grace produces gratitude toward God, and love toward others.
- Old Testament Roots – Genesis 3:21
- New Testament Command – Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:13

Application: Help your child realize that failure is never final with God.

Life Message: You were created to receive grace and to give grace.

Discussion Questions

1. Which part of this message was most helpful? Most challenging? Most thought provoking?
2. Why is it so important to teach our children to think biblically? To develop a Christian world-view?
3. What specific step would allow you to put one of these "smooth stones" in the sling of your child's life?