

A Godly Heritage

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It's been said that you can tell the impact you make by putting your hand in a bucket of water, taking it out and seeing the hole that's left. I suggest that one's life impact amounts to much more.

There is nothing greater to leave than a godly heritage, one such as described by the Apostle John in his third letter, fourth verse: "I have no greater JOY than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." He was speaking of people who had come to know Christ through his ministry.

This can apply to one's children, too. My wife Ann and I have nine points for raising children which you might find useful.

1. Teach them about Jesus from the very earliest age.
2. Love them.
3. Discipline them (love and discipline have to be in balance).
4. Teach them to be a joy to others so that regardless of where you take them they will bring joy to the hearts of the people around, whether they are adults or other children.
5. Enjoy them yourself. (Our four children and now our 19 grandchildren are truly a blessing.) It's sad when I hear that children are a burden instead of a blessing.
6. Be a godly example to them (they really are like monkeys in the zoo, copying what we do).
7. Be involved in their lives (know what's going on from the time they are little, on through their teenage years, and even after that).
8. Be available to them through their teenage years and on into their life (if you're not available to them, somebody else will be).
9. Pray for them always.

As Ann and I have studied and practiced these nine points, they have made a difference in our family. We trust they will do the same in your family as well so that you can leave a godly heritage.

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