**MINISTERIAL SPOUSES’ CURRICULUM GUIDE: LECTURES**

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**Lesson 7**

**Raising Responsible Children**

**Slide #2**

1. There are five major forces that help to shape your child's life and determine his/her destiny.

**Slides #3-7**

1. **Heredity**. **“**As a rule, children inherit the dispositions and tendencies of their parents and imitate their example so that the sins of the parents are practiced by the children from generation to generation*.” ---Mind, Character and Personality,* Vol. 1, p. 142.
2. **Environment**. “The sinfulconduct of his [Lot’s] daughters was the result of the evil associations of that vile place. Its moral corruption had become so interwoven with their character, that they could not distinguish between good and evil ... Few realize the importance of shunning, so far as possible, all associations unfriendly to religious life. In choosing their surroundings, few make their spiritual prosperity the first consideration.”--- *Mind, Character and Personality, Volume 1,* p. 147
3. **Training**. Parents need to exert their energy to nurture and train the children. Deut. 6:6 - 9; 11:18 - 21; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4 “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deut. 6: 6, 7. 6 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.2Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” Eph. 6: 1 -3

1. **Divine agencies**. The Heavenly Father, the Divine Son, the Holy Spirit and the heavenly angels are all working together to help us in this great task of child rearing
2. **Personal choice**. In the end, everyone has freedom of choice. “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.” --- Deut. 30:19 “Choose you this day….” --- Joshua 24:15
3. Principles for effective child training **Slides #8-16**
4. Enlist divine help from the start. Pray for divine help from the beginning. 1 Sam. 1:27. Hannah and Elkanah (Samuel); Manoah (Samson); Jochebed (Moses).
5. Prepare before the birth of the child. Judges 13:8. Prepare ourselves for parenting.
6. Begin to train early. 2 Tim. 3:15. Child Psychologist, Dr. Paul Meyer states that 85% of a child’s ultimate personality is formed by the time the child is 8 years old.
   1. “While the mother is molding and fashioning the character of her children, she is educating them. As soon as the child is capable of forming an idea, his education should begin. The parents’ work must begin with the child in its infancy, that it may receive the right impress of character, ere the world shall place its stamp on mind and heart. . . It is during the first years of a child’s life that his mind is most susceptible to impressions either good or evil.” -- *Child Guidance, p. 193.*
7. Discipline yourselves first. “Never give your child a passionate blow unless you want him to learn to fight and quarrel. As parents you stand in the place of God to your children, and you are to be on guard.” *Child Guidance*, p. 251.
8. Establish a climate of **LOVE** and **CARING**. “Encourage the expression of love toward God and toward one another. The reason why there are so many hardhearted men and women in the world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness and has been discouraged and repressed. . . . *Mind, Character and Personality*, p. 212*.*
9. Teach him/her early to love God and His church. Take him/her to church early. Teach him/her songs and Bible stories and the Word of God.
10. Realize that unity of mother and father is a necessity. It takes two hands to clap. The mother and father must unite in their efforts to train their children. Teamwork is important. Work with each other, not against each other.
11. Understand the unique position your child is in and the peculiar stresses he/she experiences. He/she is one of a kind. Don’t try to destroy his/her individuality. Your child can be his own self best.
12. Give your child adequate companionship, time, and friendship. Spend time with your child in his world. “Parents should never hurry their children out of their childhood.” *Child Guidance*, 206. Do things together regularly. Children grow up all too quickly.
13. Teach them values to live by, not merely to behave because of their parents' position. Teach your child the importance of values to live by and not merely to obey instructions or be like robots.
14. Encourage communication with you. Spend time listening to what your child has to say and also share your own stories.
15. Give your child scope to develop his/her individuality. Encourage his talents and creativity. Help them to develop their talents and become what they feel called to be, not necessarily what the parents want**.**
16. Provide character building material and experiences for him/her. Many Christian books and videos are available.

**Slides #18 - 23**

1. Be aware of your child's needs (emotional, spiritual, and physical) and seek to satisfy them. Try to spot and develop your child’s talents.
2. Physical needs: In church, school and at home. Sometimes we forget to cater to the needs of our children. They often get hand-me-down furniture and equipment. Children need comfort, recreational facilities, furnishings, permission to participate, and safety.
3. Social Needs: Love, belonging, social support. If they do not get these at home, they will connect with gangs and undesirable companions.
4. Spiritual needs. Participation in church, an attractive and child-friendly worship style, lessons in faith**.**
5. Special Needs must be attended to: Facilities for disabled kids.

Physical disabilities

Visual impairment

Hearing impairment

Learning disabilities

Child abuse

Illness/loss

1. Christian Education. A Christian education is your child’s birthright. Send your children to our Seventh-day Adventist schools whenever possible. **Slides #23**
2. Home Environment. Make the home a peaceful and welcome place. It ought to be a refuge from the crazy world. Make home a joyful and pleasant shelter from the world, a happy place to be.
3. Friends. **Slide #24-25**. Guide the child in the choice of friends. The right friends will help your child heavenward. Create times to mingle with their Friends.
4. **Slide #26.** Authenticity. Be a model of Christian integrity and authenticity. Model the virtues you want them to develop. Children can easily detect a hypocrite.
5. **Slide #27.** Discipline with Love. Know how to handle conflicts lovingly. “Whipping may be necessary when other resorts fail, yet she [the mother] should not use the rod if it is possible to avoid doing so. But if milder measures prove insufficient, punishment that will bring the child to its senses, should in love, be administered. Frequently, one such correction will be enough for a lifetime to show the child that he does not hold the lines of control.” *Child Guidance,* p. 250
6. **Slide #28**. Importance of prayer. Pray with and for each of your children.
7. Train your child for independence. Release him gradually according to his/.her maturity. Learn to let go.
8. Our children have freedom of choice. They are the architects of their own destiny. As parents, we must do our best and leave the outcome to God.

**Slide #29.** “We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters” (Ex. 10: 9)