

## SESSION 3: STAGES AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Recap: session 1: Biblical, principles, grace  
session 2: God, roles, gospeling
2. Being an **adult** with children [know your own history etc]
  - (a) toddler – set priorities (not vice versa)
    - respect their needs (sleep etc)
  - (b) primary- foundations of biblical wisdom
    - beginning to let them go
  - (c) teenager- willing to be unpopular
    - you may not be their “best friend” [reactions]
  - (d) special cases – sacrificing is not losing
    - strength in weakness

\*Guard your marriage priority      \*questions/answers

3. Communication/Time
  - (a) toddler - greatly loved but not worshipped
    - precious time, so don't give it away
  - (b) primary - stay interested in them
    - help them live in the Ephesians 3:18 framework
  - (c) teenager- be ready for their time to talk
    - keep communicating God's steadfastness
  - (d) special cases – consuming so plan to work and rest
    - keep the “door” open

\*questions/answers

*\*exercise: what are we taught about **self-esteem** by (a) our culture and (b) scripture?*

4. “Self-esteem”
  - (a) toddler – laying the foundations for biblical balance
  - (b) primary – not everyone can be number one
  - (c) teenager-helping them know what is important to God
  - (d) special cases – being in God's image is for every human

\*questions/answers

5. Discipline
  - (a) toddler – good boundaries, consistency, realism
  - (b) primary – not too permissive, not too harsh [wisdom!]
  - (c) teenager-years when we learn much about grace and love
  - (d) special cases- responsibility to explain and discipline

\*questions/answers

6. Peer pressure

- (a) toddler – your children are not your showcase!
- (b) primary – beware the “too much too soon” pressure
- (c) teenager-be sensitive to their frailties [big/little issues]
- (d) special cases- [broad area needs specific illustrations]

\*questions/answers

7. Timetable

- (a) toddler – reading and praying with them
  - helping them know truth from error/fact from fiction
- (b) primary – don’t fill up their lives so fellowship is lost
  - the primary teacher on Jesus is mum and dad
- (c) teenager-make use of every possible encouragement (camps etc)
  - “under our roof” benefits carry responsibilities (church)
- (d) special cases – seek to be faithful, not necessarily successful
  - God is at work

\*questions/answers

8. How do the two original goals for this conference affect the conclusions of this session?