

I will give you homework every week. I can give you enough today to practice for 10 weeks and still not have it down. Next week I will give you another something. By the time we get to the 3rd week you will say, "I can't do this." You will get depressed. It's like taking a drink from a fire hydrant. This class will last 10 weeks. In September there is another set of 10 classes. You won't get it all in one semester. The goal is to change percentages. If right now your form of enforcing behavior is to yell. If you think the kids don't respond unless you are yelling and you call your Mom and tell her they won't obey. You trained them to disobey, but we will untrain them. If you only yell 98% of the time then you are a winner.

It takes awhile to change. Don't preface any comment with "Sister Tanner." Once you start trying to do them they become yours. These become your principles. In the beginning you might say that, but they do become yours.

Classes this semester...

1. Take Time To Teach
2. 4 Legs of the Table—Foundation for a good home
3. Color Code—Core personalities
4. Self Esteem
5. Positive Discipline #1
6. Positive Discipline #2
7. Communication
8. Stress & Adversity
9. Morality
10. Marriage—Divine Difference Between Men & Women

Taking Time To Teach

What are your 2 top goals? Write them down.

I understand that things I was teaching 24 years ago are not the things I'm teaching today and yet some of the things are. The applications of principles are changing with time. Conference talks have changed. When you listen to prophets and see what they emphasize now things have changed. Today the topic is probably the one that has changed the most. It is critical to your families. I haven't trained my children the way I am going to teach you. I'm really practicing on it with my husband I still need to train him.

The principles are good and true and real. I hope you can get them.

What is important today is not where you are today. It's not where you are in the process...on the road. I want you to care about what direction you are facing. Are you going to hang onto old ways? Or are you willing to look at where you are and what you are doing and make a change to something else if necessary.

You are living in a new world. The way our children are being influenced by the world is different. You have to parent different. If you are willing to progress and move forward and change your parenting from how you were parented.

"Without God I can't. Without me, He won't."

Without God I can't raise my children in righteousness. Without me He won't do it. Sometimes we pray for Heavenly Father in a job list to do our job for us. He will show you how to make those things happen, but he won't do it for you. We need to look and see how and what we are praying.

Think about this... "Journey to the Veil" by John Pontius

"Frustration, anxiety comes when we focus on the wrong goal. When our lives are properly aligned with God's plan for us we will feel peace and safety."

Here is the goal I challenge you with..."The greatest goal we should have is to make our eye single to the glory of God."

This is what has changed over the past 24 years. 24 years ago my goal was to be a good mother. That was a good goal, but not the best.

"If you focus on your own needs or your own fears, you will not be attuned to the solution Heavenly Father is trying to communicate to you."

It's like you predetermining what the answer to the prayer is.

"Once you turn and make that the goal, then Heavenly Father will take you step by step in finding the solution. Whatever is best for you and your children will happen."

Our goal is to serve God.

When he is talking about the generation of youth, he is talking about you. You were the youth in 1981. If he is talking to you this is yours. This is not the youth of today. This is

you. It is the youth that were the youth in 1981, but it is you. Listen to what he says. Think about your role of being a mother right now.

President Spencer W. Kimball May 1981

"...this generation of [youth] is going to do deeds never done before. You are going to accomplish the seemingly impossible because you are on His errand. Your generation will fight the greatest army of Satanic hosts ever assembled. You will be severely out numbered. You will need a deep and abiding faith in Christ to survive-and you will survive. The Lord and his servants will triumph, we do know that."

(Letter to the Youth of the Church," Church News, 9 May 1981, p.9)

If all these things seemed impossible, why are you going to accomplish impossible things....because you are on His errand.

"Your generation will fight the greatest army of Satanic hosts ever....."

He makes evil look good more than ever before.

"You will be severely outnumbered. You will need a deep and abiding faith in Christ to survive. And you will survive. The Lord and his servants will triumph."

Warning what your day would be like now, and a promise that you will succeed and you will survive and you will conquer the Satanic hosts if you keep your eye on the glory of God.

We are going to talk about making a Christ centered home. It's not that you discipline correctly and don't ever fight. It's if they can feel the Spirit of the Holy Ghost in their lives. If they feel the Spirit of the Holy Ghost will they contend? No. It's not one of contention. Will they help a sibling without being asked? Yes. As we start trying to implement these things it still happens because the number 1 goal isn't in place.

In 1970 Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled parents of wayward children to "leave off trying to alter your child just for a little while and concentrate on yourself. The changes must begin with you, not with your children.

"You can't continue to do what you have been doing (even though you thought it was right) and expect to unproduce some behavior in your child, when your conduct was one of the things that produced it" ("[Families and Fences," Improvement Era, Dec. 1970, p. 106](#)).

This week you are only to worry about changing you. I want you to focus on you. I would have these out of body experiences where you know you are a reasonably good person and you are watching this crazy lady scream at her kids and you think, that is not me but you can't stop it.

You need to have an out of body experience this week. Be 3rd person to yourself and watch yourself. I read where you don't have to go on a diet, just write down everything you eat. You can eat anything you want. This is going to be a little bit like that. You will say, I shouldn't do that, but I don't know what else to do. Observe yourself. If you don't know how you feel, act, respond you can't change it. You need to know where you are at.

"The changes must begin with you. You cannot continue to do what you have been doing even if you thought it was right and expect to unproduced something in your children if your behavior you taught them."

It's our behavior and yelling that produces them sitting in front of the TV. We train them they don't have to move until our voices reach a certain level. Our behavior is producing the behavior we don't want.

HOMEWORK: Look at yourself.

["Opening Our Hearts" Gerald Lund April 2008](#)

Nephi taught, "When a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it *unto* the hearts of the children of men."¹¹ Elder David A. Bednar noted the use of the word *unto*: "Please notice how the power of the Spirit carries the message *unto* but not necessarily *into* the heart. ... Ultimately, ... the content of a message and the witness of the Holy Ghost penetrate into the heart only if a receiver allows them to enter."¹²

Our job as parents is to create an environment and experience where we bring the Holy Ghost 'unto' our children so they will want to open their hearts and let it 'into' their hearts.

Why are we re-teaching the same principle? They don't believe it. Because of the method we used they haven't opened their heart to bring it into their hearts.

When I grew up you do what I say because I'm the parent. We wonder why our children are not internalizing. We have to teach and train by the Holy Ghost which invites them (not compels them). The key is to bring true principles unto.

There are 3 levels in the gospel...Obedience, Sacrifice, Consecration. They build on each other. The law of Obedience was given in the time of Moses. How many of you parent the law of obedience? It's when I set down a rule and you better do it. It's the law and I'm the parent. With the law of Moses there were laws and punishments.

Many of you do what I call reactive parenting. Your child misbehaves and you act.

Example...It's laundry day. You have collected all the dirty clothes. As you go to the laundry room you pass the living room where they are playing. They are fighting over the truck. You put down the laundry and go over there and say, "We have to share and we have to take turns. If you can't share then I will just take it and you won't play with it at all."

Example...It's laundry day. As you go past the kids are playing nicely you walk through and you go do your laundry.

What made you interact with the children? They were misbehaving. Do you referee your children? Referees are trained to look for infractions of rules. They throw the flag and call a penalty...or a punishment. We watch to see the things they are doing wrong and then when they are doing something wrong we are going to penalize them. They are going to be punished. We are focused on looking for their negative behavior. You think somehow in calling attention to all the things they do wrong and correcting it and it will correct it.

Example...If you can't stop arguing over the doll I will take it. Can your work this out? Yes. 5 minutes later they are arguing again. I am tired of all the fighting that is going on here.

You have called their attention every time they have done something wrong. Have you trained them how to do it right? We think by calling attention to wrong behavior we are training them to do it right. Is that your style of parenting? Do you interact with your children when they are misbehaving? Do you do reactive parenting?

It is built on a negative foundation. That is the law of obedience. In the law of obedience you want peace so you can do what you want to do. They are interrupting your time. You want them to be good so it doesn't involve you being there. You want to have a family. You want them to be good kids. You want them to go out there and be good so you can do what you want to do.

When the Savior came he brought the law of Sacrifice (or the higher law). When you parent to the higher law you get them involved in lots of things. There are lots of activities. It is important to you that they are popular. You are so busy with helping them look good and be good. You are concerned with what you look like. You are concerned for your reputation. You are anxiously engaged..

[Richard G. Scott "First Things First" April 2001](#)

"Satan and his hosts will do all in their power to keep you from obtaining the ordinances required for the ideal family. He will attempt to distract you from centering your mind and heart on raising a strong family by nurturing your children as the Lord requires.

Are there so many fascinating, exciting things to do or so many challenges pressing down upon you that it is hard to keep focused on that which is essential? When things of the world crowd in, all too often the wrong things take highest priority. Then it is easy to forget the fundamental purpose of life. Satan has a powerful tool to use against good people. It is distraction. He would have good people fill life with "good things" so there is no room for the essential ones. Have you unconsciously been caught in that trap?"

We get so busy we get distracted from the Lord

B-U-S-Y = **B**eing **U**nder **S**atan's **Y**oke

The Law of Consecration....What does it look like?

Pull it into parenting...

[President Dieter F. Uchtdorf Oct 2011 "Forget Me Not"](#)

"...sometimes see the gospel as a long list of tasks that we must add to our already impossibly long to-do list, as a block of time that we must somehow fit into our busy schedules. We focus on *what* the Lord wants us to do and *how* we might do it, but we sometimes forget *why*."

It feels overwhelming because we already have a long list of to-do's. (Law of Sacrifice)

"We focus on *what* the Lord wants us to do and *how* we might do it, but we sometimes forget *why*. While understanding the "what" and the "how" of the gospel is necessary, the eternal fire and majesty of the gospel springs from the "why." When we understand *why* our Heavenly Father has given us this pattern for living, when we remember *why* we committed to making it a foundational part of our lives, the gospel ceases to become a burden and, instead, becomes a joy and a delight. It becomes precious and sweet."

Why should they not quarrel? It drives away the Spirit. (Contention is of Satan) It's not so mother can have peace or so they don't have blood. It takes the Spirit out of our home.

When we teach by the "why" in our children's life the gospel will cease to become a burden and become a joy and delight.

How to Parent To the Law of Consecration...

1. Create an Environment.
2. Teach the Principle.

The environment that makes them what to open their heart so they can let it into their hearts. Then we can teach so that it does into. Training our children isn't fast. Teaching...truly teaching takes time and effort. It takes having the goal set in the right place.

Create an Environment

1. Build on a Positive Foundation. Look at/recognize positives. Your challenge is to say it positively. Every time you correct one of your children this week say it in the positive. Stop telling them what you don't want them to do. Start telling them what you do want them to do.
 - a. "Don't jump on the couch." Instead say, "You can jump on the floor. You can put on your jacket and go jump on the trampoline."
2. Keep Your Word.
 - a. We tell them we will be home at 3:00 and then we aren't home. The key is not to tell them a time. If you say I will be home at 3 you better be there earlier. "I have to run a few errands if I'm not home when you get here call me."
 - b. If you tell them you will be grounded if you are not home by midnight. If they come home at 12:15 they can talk you out of it. "Curfew is midnight and I will be waiting for you."
3. Use the language of respect
 - a. Tell them thank you, please.
4. Use eye contact
 - a. Don't talk to them while you are doing something else in the kitchen. Stop and make eye contact.
5. Physical Contact
 - a. Give them a hug, touch their arm.
 - b. When you are talking about happy things it is warm fuzzies.

6. Keep them out of an emotional corner.
 - a. Example...Oreo Cookies...Kids go in the pantry and eat Oreos before dinner. Their faces are covered with cookies. You say, "Have you been in the cookies?" No. "Yes you have. You are lying to me." The attack comes. Don't attack them. Don't make them fight. You say instead, "I see you have been in the cookies and we were going to have them for dessert. I'm sorry you have already had them."
 - b. Separate the deed from the child.
7. Be on the child's side, but don't rescue them.
 - a. Say, "I'm sorry. What can I do to help?"
 - b. Cheer for them and be on their side.
8. Be at the crossroads.
 - a. Leave and come home from school. Be at the door. Walk to the door and greet them with a smile. Not with a list of why didn't you do this and this and this.
9. Learn how to communicate

These set an atmosphere. You really haven't taught them anything yet. These things can happen real fast. You can create that very fast. Now you have to teach. Teaching as a parent requires more than dispensing truth. Your children can go to primary, Sunday School, YW/YM and give the correct answer.

Level 1—Teach Knowledge

- Story—facts of the story.
- Sometimes that is where we stop. They can appear really bright. They can answer all these questions. That won't fortify these children this day. It's not enough. You cannot stop there.

Level 2—Check their Understanding

- The only way to test the understanding is to have them give it back to you.
- Learn how to ask open ended questions.
- Don't ask..."Where did Joseph Smith go to pray?"---it's a yes/no answer
- Ask instead..."What do you think Joseph Smith had in his heart when he went to pray?"
- Asking questions is a spiritual gift. It is one you should pray for.
- "How did Joseph Smith find answers?"
- "What happened to him because of that?"
- "What did that mean?"
- It's not just the facts.

Level 3—Internalize

- They have to know how to apply it to their lives. They have to see it in their heads.
- “Joseph Smith prayed for answers. I can pray for answers.”

Level 4—Act

- They have to have an experience.

Example...You have a blessing on serving the elderly. You need to do a little bit more. You take them to a nursing home. Let them put on a piano recital where they can act with a response. Now it's into their heart.

HOMEWORK:

1. Read so we can discuss next week “12 ways to be the meanest Mom in the world”
2. Read [“Parents The Prime Gospel Teacher” by Tad Callister](#) in the current conference issue
 - a. Make a list of to-do's—How can you be a good parent? What did you learn about parenting? What examples do you have that you need to incorporate in your life? What goal will you set to bring your children unto Christ? How can you have a more Christ centered home?
3. Read [“Resilient Children” by Lyle J. Burrup](#)
 - a. Our children don't know how to bounce back. This is about what you do now to raise children who are resilient.
4. Come with some goal in one of these 2 articles.

My son works at the MTC and he trains mission presidents and missionaries. He has been there for 14-15 years working with missionaries and mission presidents. One of the number one problems we have as our youth are going out in the mission field is created in the home. We are not training our children to think. We are training obedient children who believe the gospel is true. Tell us how many doors we need to knock and we will do it. We as parents have told them everything to do in their lives. We haven't taught them to listen to the Holy Ghost. They can't handle the stress and they want to come home.

“The Savior blessed the Nephite children individually and prayed for them. Then he spake unto the multitude....they saw the heavens open...encircled about with fire. How can our children experience blessings like this today?

Elder M. Russell Ballard has said, “Clearly, those of us who have been entrusted with precious children have been given a sacred, noble stewardship, for we are the ones God has appointed to encircle today’s children with love and the fire of faith and an understanding of who they are” (“Behold Your Little Ones,” *Tambuli*, Oct. 1994, 40; [“Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1994, 60](#)).

You are the angels that will encircle your little ones with His love. He will empower you to do that if you ask. I testify that is true. He loves yours more than you. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.