

## 11-13-14 Class #8—Work

Elder Cook "[Choose Wisely](#)" (October 2014) "Even worthwhile endeavors need evaluation in order to determine if they have become distractions from the best goals."

Class member: I realized by 10 yr old was going to over commit to too many things so we had him put them on paper and decide which was of more worth. I had him do that, but do I do this?

Write down... "What is your purpose in Parenting?"

Class member: Raise healthy children. I grew up in an environment that I don't want to reproduce. I want my children to grow up and be emotionally healthy.

Class member: Help them become loving and self sustaining adults.

Class member: To raise confident happy children that have a close relationship to God.

Those are fabulous. Going back to what Elder Cook said when you are parenting with a purpose, "How much of what you do everyday takes you away from your purpose? And how much is just getting through the day?" How much is moving forward and how much is just treading water?

You have to realize that you have to keep in mind your purpose. When you tell your children to go out and rake all the leaves in the yard, what is your purpose. To get the yard raked. Generally our purpose is..."I want the yard cleaned up and the leaves gone." Do you handle that differently if your purpose is, "I want you to learn to work hard."

Sometimes our purpose is to have a clean house, get laundry done, etc. When we react to a not clean house are we focused on our reason for parenting.

The Lord said on the 7<sup>th</sup> day we will rest from our labors. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day rest from temporal labors, but be anxiously engaged in spiritual things. What is the world telling us we deserve if we are successful...retire early, entertain self, play...Never does the Lord say to take a break and be entertained.

Pray...diligently, without ceasing, ponder (emotional spiritual commitment) Why do we not pray with real intent? Because it's hard work. Most of us are content to have a 2

minute stop on our way to bed. You know when you are praying diligently. Usually it's when you have a real problem.

The #1 reason missionaries go home early is because they don't want to work.

We need to raise the bar in what we require of our children. We want them to be successful in the Lord's kingdom and that is getting harder and harder every day. This is not because the commandments have changed.

When I was growing up it was easy to be good because that's what everyone did. You weren't sassy. Parents & teachers were the authority. You were respectful. The whole world was a "Leave it to Beaver". The world was very innocent. Was I some spiritually wonderful person...no, everyone did that. It made me normal.

Now with all the garbage out there is it harder to be good? Yes. Is it hard to go to school and stand up for what is right? Yes. It requires doing hard things for our youth to be spiritually strong. How can they get that core to stand up if we have little to no expectations of them at home? Teachers have no power over them. They are just sliding through. They are worthy to go on a mission, but they have no inside fortitude or toughness to withstand anything. They crumble. How do we raise these warriors? The spirits are capable of learning that in these days. We had to guide and direct those strong spirits.

My parents could have just given me food and a place to stay and I would have grown up well. If you do that to your children now they will go ballistic. The Lord needed you to be chosen to raise these kids! He is saving his best spirits to come. They really really need training because the training they are getting in the world will destroy them.

Why are they griping? They don't want to do anything hard. I want you to teach them the love of work. It's not just to do something. It's to learn to love to do hard things. There is a huge difference in the approach. It takes more than a job list to teach this.

I invite you to read this book. "[Gifted Hands](#)" The Ben Carson Story.

The reason I want you to read it is because it's a great illustration of fabulous parenting.

Tad Callister "[Parents the Prime Gospel Teachers of Their Children](#)" in Conference told about the story...

I am not saying only a job list when they are working. They need to develop a “mind to work”. They need to develop a love of doing good things. Happiness, confidence, self-worth, gratitude all go with learning to work.

Think about the Laman & Lemuel attitudes your kids give you . They haven’t learned how to love work yet. It’s to be willing, have a happy attitude, find satisfaction & pride, stay with it until it’s finished. Then when they seek opportunities to work without you telling them they have to. The world teaches they need stuff and they shouldn’t have to do anything. It is counter to what they think is “right”.

Elder Joe Christensen “[Greed Selfishness & Overindulgence](#)” 1999

“One of the most important things we can teach our children is to deny themselves. Instant gratification generally makes for weak people.”

What do we do to create an environment...that is in our power...where children can come to have the “mind” to love the opportunity to work. I’m not just talking about the job list. It means doing anything well.

Robotics is mentally hard work. Playing football is hard work. Sports used wisely teach them good lessons. BUT as you have children that want them to be in sports constantly they become self-entitled even though they are doing hard things. Any musical instrument or dance lessons are good. Anything overdone creates entitlement. They develop the feeling that they can see it through to the end even though they really want to quit. What we are trying to develop is not to get a job list done, but provide the opportunity for a condition of the heart to develop.

If you do this while they are young it is much easier. Do it even if it’s hard. There is a process of teaching a child a task. In order for them to create a condition of the heart, you have to go through the process of teaching the work.

Process of teaching to work....(pg 69 of syllabus)

1. Show & Tell...they have to know what the end product looks like. Show them how to do it the way you want it done. You are doing it with them. You don’t say, “Go make your bed.” You do it together. We tend to teach the oldest child and then teach the 2<sup>nd</sup> child then 3 and 4 come along and then get irritated that the younger ones don’t do it. The older child can teach the younger child.
2. Encourage them that you have faith in their ability to get the task done.
3. Help them to know what a completed job looks like. We have a problem with this. We yell at them about why the job isn’t done all the way. We start picking at them because they forgot some things. They aren’t getting the big picture.

4. Work with them until they are capable of working on their own. Every child is different. Know what their ability is.
5. Validate them for each part of the job. Validate on the toilet, mirror, sink, shower, floor when cleaning the bathroom. It encourages them to want to do all the parts better.
6. Don't let them quit until the job is done.

When my children were little I posted these posters...Quick clean, and good clean of bedroom. I would come in on Saturday. They would get mad at me because "I wasn't doing anything". IT took me all morning just to parent. That is your job. Your job is them. Their job is to do the work. The list is the bad guy not me.

If you give your children an allowance...don't give them money without giving them equal responsibility with the money. You don't get to spend your money on just playing. Teach them tithing, fast offerings, savings-long term, short term-Christmas, birthdays. They shouldn't have more than about 20-25% of what they earn to 'play' with. We are teaching them faulty ideas.

If you choose to not give them money that is ok too. The satisfaction of living in a clean house and being part of the family. They need to have the opportunity before they leave home to earn money and learn to spend it.

Children (little people) work well with job charts, job lists, a reward at the end. Big people it gets to be harder.

Class member: We have a job chart with pictures. We have tickets we give. Friday is our family movie night and they can turn in their ticket for popcorn.

Look at practices. They are great! BUT the principle is to teach them to love to work.

Class member: When my husband was 5 yrs old his Mom got him a paper route. He folded them and threw them out of the van. He was able to manage money. He had enough saved to put a sizeable amount down on a house.

We rescue and save and make it so our children don't have to do this.

Class member: I grew up overworked. I moved pipe, restored a house, got cows. I still hate working. I'm always grumpy when I do the dishes.

This is the difference between a job list. She wasn't taught to love to work.

Yellow son (butterfly boy) he doesn't want to work hard. Pg 69 in the syllabus. When Cory was little (10 yrs old) we had big trees. You had to drag the hose to water trees. They had to drag the hose to water the trees and put the hose in the well until the well was full. The boys had to stand by the tree with a shovel. They had to take the shovel and close up the hole. They had to stay and watch. His job was to water 4 trees. They were 30 minutes each (2 hours of work). I was not aware he had been told to do that. His Dad came home late, he worked construction. About 7pm Cory is saying, "I'm really tired. I just need to go to bed." He just wanted to be in bed before Mike got home. Mike went downstairs. Dad says, "Cory did you get the trees watered." Dad says I guess you better get up and go get them watered.

How many of you would have said, "You need to get up and do it tonight."? Hold them accountable in love.

Do you think he went out there and said, "I love work?" No. When that boy was 15 he got up on his own at 5am every Saturday morning he was grading the yard so we could get the lawn in.

He got to Snowville and they said he wouldn't finance his new business. He quit his good job. 4 months later he said, "I've always wanted to start my own business." He had his logo made. He created a property management business. He moved out and into another place. He has been here 2 years and has started 5 companies. That is because he knows how to work. He has a love of work. He understands his own weaknesses. He married a finisher. He just bought and will be the owner of "Starlight Theater". I want to give the people of that town the opportunity to work. That is the "mind to work". The love to work. That only happens if they go through experiences like Cory did.

We had a subdivision. When the weather turned to cold we woke the family up in the middle of the night to all go out and put blankets over the newly poured concrete. We had a party with hot chocolate while they were out there doing that.

Hard work has to be balanced by hard play....hike, bike, swim. Do something that makes your body move. That is when bonding takes place. Nobody bonds watching a movie together.

Class member: All my kids are good workers in certain areas. Do they have to love to work doing everything?

They have to learn to do things they don't like to do sometimes. They have to learn to play hard.

Pg 71 & 72—READ in the syllabus.

Ages 2-4 Age of Industry--Getting the job done is not the goal. Getting them to love to work...this is the time to do it. Mothers you are so task oriented...you give them something to do so you can get something done.

Ages 5-11 Own Self Confidence and Self Esteem---This comes from seeing their jobs done well.

Get them to do job lists young. Job lists should graduate into hard activities...building a chicken coop, sewing. It is because of the satisfaction it give them. Hand work, cross stitch, crafting. Look at hobbies that are "to do". Boys..."Wood working, robotics, inventions"...hands on, tactile.

What do your children do in free time? How much free time do they have? Free time is not leisure time. They should be doing something. This is where I think minimal use of electronics is great. They need to learn how to do it. Get them on FamilySearch. They need to have electronics and they need to use them wisely. All the General Authorities use electronics. We don't need to be spending all our time playing "Angry Birds".

Doing hard things will take them to the Celestial Kingdom.

At least once a year do a difficult painful time consuming family project. They will be the best experiences of your life. We have a harder time creatively thinking of ways to have our children be engaged in good things. You have to have the desire to teach your children the love of work. You will come up with ideas you never dreamed possible. My kids would bake bread and take it around the neighborhood to sell it. You can think of ways. You will be told what you need to do to help your children. The Lord will give you answers to those prayers. Teaching this principle is critical.

Coming unto Christ...spiritually, physically, mentally is hard. If you are successful life should be easy is one of Satan's lies.

Story:

"At 211 degrees, water is hot.

At 212 degrees, it boils.

And with boiling water, comes steam.

And with steam, you can power a train.

“One degree. Applying one extra degree of temperature to water means the difference between something that is simply very hot and something that generates enough force to power a machine – a beautifully uncomplicated metaphor that ideally should feed our every endeavor – consistently pushing us to make the extra effort in every task, action and effort we undertake. Two-twelve serves as a forceful drill sergeant with its motivating and focused message while adhering to a scientific law – a natural law. It reminds us that seemingly small things can make tremendous differences.”<sup>1</sup>