

Background Reading For Leaders

Some useful quotes:

"There has never been a time in history when the children of the world have been more spiritually at risk than they are today." Larry Fowler, *Rock-Solid Kids*, p. 9.

"A plethora of competing worldviews and warped values flow freely throughout society – directly into the minds of children, where they stay for a lifetime."

Where are the parents? Trying to stay afloat amidst crazed, hectic schedules that allow little time for meaningful spiritual interaction with their children. Childhood itself is compressed as kids are forced into the same stressful lifestyles as their parents. Who has time today to "be still and know that I am God?"

Where is the church? How is it faring in this battle for the hearts and minds of children? "
Larry Fowler, *Rock Solid Kids*, p. 9.

"If children are nurtured, released, trained, empowered and given a vision for their lives, then when they reach adolescence their roots will be deep. Relationships that have been formed during the early years can provide foundations. Too often the childhood years are seen as being in waiting for 'when they are older.' 'When they are older' may be too late; the cracks will have begun to appear."
Daphne Kirk, *Born for Such a Time as This*, Kingsgate Publishing, 2004, p. 60.

"Even when quite young, children notice; and if the parents show that the word of God is not their guide and counsellor, if they disregard the messages brought to them, the same reckless spirit of, "I don't care; I will have my own way," will be shown by their children."
Ellen White, *Manuscript 49*, 1898

"Give the Word its honoured position as the guide in the home. Let it be regarded as the counsellor in every difficulty, the standard in every practice...Do all in your power to save the souls of your children." Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, p. 510.

In writing about shaping the devotional life of children Ellen White wrote: *"Parents and teachers should constantly seek for improved methods. The teaching of the Bible should have our freshest thought, our best methods, and our most earnest effort."* Ellen White, *Education*, p185, 186.

"I know nothing that causes me so great sadness as a prayer-less home. I do not feel safe in such a house for a single night; and were it not for the hope of helping the parents realise their necessity and their sad neglect, I would not remain. The children show the result of this neglect."
Ellen White, *Signs of the Times*, Aug 7, 1844.

"When the 'well done' of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe and, pointing to their mother, say, "She made me all I am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation." Ellen White, *Messages To Young People*, p. 330.

"With joy unutterable, parents see the crown, the robe, given to their children. The days of hope and fear are ended. The seed sown with tears and prayers may have seemed to be sown in vain, but their harvest is reaped with joy at last. Their children have been redeemed. Fathers, mothers, shall the voices of your children swell the song of gladness in that day?" Ellen White, *Signs Of The Times*, July 1, 1886.