



AGE 1

The Root Years



HOME
22.6

AGE 1

A Snapshot of Life

From age 1–2 years, children

- Begin to make simple choices.
- Continue to grow in trust of adults.
- Begin to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behavior.
- Experience stranger anxiety.
- Understand and use words for items.
- Love to explore.
- Move constantly.

Parenting Tip

Provide a child-appropriate Bible that your child can handle. Model your respect for God's Word as you show your child how to gently turn the pages and admire the pictures. Talk about all God has made, especially animals and the noises they make. Respond to wanted behavior more than you punish unwanted behavior.

Parent Dedication

What is Parent Dedication?

Parent dedication is giving a strong spiritual legacy to your children. The Legacy Principle, the Likelihood Principle, and the Lenses Principle are crucial to your child's spiritual growth. In the parent dedication section you'll find tools to help you grow as a parent. **The Legacy Principle** states that the scriptures tell us that what we do today directly influences the multi-generational cycle of family traits, beliefs and actions – for good or bad (Exodus 20:5-6, Psalm 78:5-8). So passing a strong faith to our children begins by having a strong faith ourselves, modeling the gospel in our marriages and in how we relate to those closest to us. Some of us need to break negative cycles that may have started with our own upbringing in order to launch a new and improved legacy for the next generation. **The Likelihood Principle** states that the good news is this: in the context of healthy relationships, children tend to embrace the values of their parents. Proverbs 22:6 tells us that when children learn right from wrong at home under the nurturing, loving training of parents, they tend to adopt mom and dad's beliefs. While there are no guarantees because every child has a free will, kids are far more likely to embrace their parent's faith if they enjoy their parent's company! That's a big part of the reason parents are warned not to "provoke your children to wrath" but rather "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Bottom line – a strong relationship with mom and dad is key to a strong Christian faith. **The Lenses Principle** says Jesus taught that our enemy's primary weapon is deception – getting us to believe and live according to lies rather than truth (John 8:44). And when someone is deceived, he or she does not know it! Our children are growing up in a culture that bombards them with lies. An hour or two per week at church is no match for the hundreds of hours spent with media, school, and friends. Nor can it compete with a child's fallen nature that often wants to rebel against what is good, true and beautiful. It is the job of parents to equip children with the corrective "lenses" of truth so they can better navigate the deceptive roads of life.



Spend time in God's Word, and ask Him to reveal to you wisdom as you continue your journey in parenting your child.

Pray with your spouse Proverbs 22:6, and ask God to hide His Words in your heart. As Hebrews 4:12 tells us, "For the Word of God is living and powerful..."



Parenting Tool: *Setting Boundaries*

Why do we set boundaries?

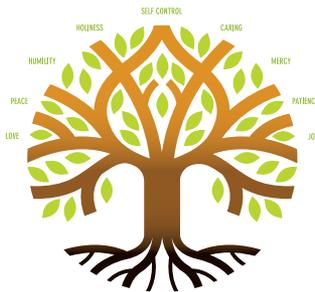
We set limits because we love our children. Setting these limits in a loving way from the very beginning will help our children develop a sense of responsibility and self-control that will serve them throughout their lives. Proverbs 29:17 tells us, "Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul."

Why is it important to set boundaries for toddlers?

Your toddler needs consistency. If you're consistent, it will help your child learn how to behave. Of course, no toddler can behave all the time. There will be many times you will have to say "no" when your child is misbehaving or in danger of getting hurt. Parents need to agree when to say no. If you and your spouse were brought up with different parenting styles, you will need to discuss and agree on parenting your child. An important verse for helping you and your spouse find agreement on a parenting style is Joshua 24:15, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Why is it important to set clear boundaries?

Being clear about what's allowed encourages toddlers to think before acting, so they learn to control their impulses on their own. Proverbs 3:6 tells us, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."



Your consistency in setting and enforcing boundaries will give your children a framework for the Holy Spirit to build self-control in their lives.

Do's & Don'ts of Setting Boundaries

DO

- Pick your battles—Set rules you feel you need to enforce, but keep them to a reasonable number.
- Be direct—Redirection works well with toddlers. They have little control over their impulses and might not grasp why you are saying no. They may need to be moved into another room or to another activity.
- Be consistent—Make sure you stick to the rules you establish. If you make an exception, explain why.
- Be patient—Toddlers do forget and will repeat misbehavior. Remember, God is good and will give us patience if we ask.

DON'T

- Give in or waiver—Instead, let your child know that you are serious and there will be consequences if the behavior does not change. You have to follow through so your child knows you mean business the next time he/she misbehaves.
- Dictate—Instead, give your child acceptable choices. This gives your child a sense of control and minimizes meltdowns.
- Criticize—Instead respond with love. Criticizing can hurt your child's self-confidence.
- Lose your temper—Instead, remember to stay calm, and ask God for wisdom in dealing with your child. Always explain what he or she did wrong. Your goal is to teach your child correct behavior with a loving spirit.
- Constantly say "no"—If you say this too many times, it will lose its effectiveness.

Give toddlers lots of hugs and encouragement, and praise them when they are good. By praising them, you will build confidence in them and make them feel good about themselves. Remember, if they feel good about themselves, they are more likely to want to please you. Psalm 119:171 reminds us, "My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes."

Blessing Your Children

How do I bless my children?

There is power in a blessing. The Hebrew word for blessing is used over 640 times in the Old Testament alone. Do you know the very first thing God did after creating us? In Genesis 1:27–28 we read, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them...” We were made for blessing! Based on examples in the Bible, there are five basic elements that make up a biblical blessing:

1. Meaningful Touch Meaningful touch has many beneficial effects. The act of touch is a key to communicating warmth, personal acceptance, and affirmation—even physical health! For anyone who wishes to see the blessing grow and develop in a child, touch is an integral part of the blessing. As Mark 10:13–16 says, “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”

2. A Spoken Message Words have an incredible power to build us up or tear us down emotionally. This is particularly true when those words are coming from our parents. Therefore, the blessing hinges on a spoken message. Your child desperately needs to hear a spoken blessing from you. As parents, we must be keenly aware of the power of the spoken word and also be aware of how powerful the absence of spoken words can be. Both people and relationships suffer in the absence of words of blessing, or those spoken words of love, encouragement, and support. Proverbs 16:24

reminds us, “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones...”

3. Expression of High Value To “value” something means to attach great importance to it. This is at the very heart of the concept of blessing. Anytime we bless someone, we are attaching high value to him or her. Our children need to hear that they are someone who has great worth apart from his or her performance. As Ephesians 4:29 reminds us, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

4. Picture of a Special Future Communicating a special future to a child is another important part of giving the blessing. Children are filled with the potential to be all God intends them to be. Picturing a special future for your children can help bring out the best in their lives. It gives them a positive direction to strive toward and surrounds them with hope. When a child feels in his or her heart that the future is hopeful and something to look forward to, it can greatly affect his or her attitude toward life. We can see this very thing in our relationship with the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ says the Lord, ‘thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.’”

5. An Active Commitment The first four elements listed above are the building blocks of the blessing, but the mortar that holds them together is an active commitment—the fifth element. This element of the blessing describes the responsibility that goes with the blessing. Parents need to rely on the Lord to give them the strength and staying power to confirm their children’s blessing. You have God’s Word through the Scriptures as a guide, plus the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Words alone cannot communicate the blessing; they need to be backed with a commitment to do everything possible to help the one blessed to be successful. Isaiah 40:31 encourages us, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

For more information on the biblical blessing, see *The Gift of the Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent, PhD.

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Blessing your 1-year-old

“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord,” says 1 Samuel 1:27–28. Pray for God’s words to be revealed to you as you daily pour blessings into your child’s life.

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Ways to Bless Your Child

Meaningful Touch “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ And He laid His hands on them and departed from there,” says Matthew 19:14–15. Jesus loved the little children. Wherever He went, moms would take their children to Him, so He could touch and bless them. While holding your children, tell them how much you love them. Sing happy songs like “The B-I-B-L-E” and “When You’re Happy and You Know It.”

Prayers of Scripture

As you continue to pray Scripture into your child’s life, remember that Jesus is our example. He said, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7). When we remain in Him, and His Word remains in us, He will answer our prayers as we pray His desires for our child. You may consider the following Scripture blessings for your child:

- Ephesians 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma.”
- Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
- Deuteronomy 6:5, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”
- Hebrews 12:1, “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Written or spoken blessing

Remember to write and speak words of love and kindness. You need to speak words of blessing to your child daily. The tone of your voice and the words you are expressing reveal to your children your love for the Lord

and your love for them. Proverbs 16:24 says, "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones." Continue to add to your "blessing box" with written words of affirmation. What are some accomplishments your child is achieving at this age? Put these in your "blessing box."

One-on-one time

Some ideas for one-on-one time include:

- Taking an outing to the zoo
- Reading a book
- Putting animal stickers on a sheet of paper and naming them
- Wrestling with your toddler on the floor

A blessing for you

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children," Isaiah 54:13

What's a Blessing Box?

In Genesis 1:27–28 God's Word says, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them..."

We were all made for blessing! Written words can place unconditional love and acceptance into the heart of a child. One idea for sharing blessings with your children is to have a "blessing box," or a special box where you can store written blessings and encouraging words for your child as they develop.

Several ideas for written blessings include Scripture passages you claim for your child, words of affirmation, descriptions of accomplishments, desires for the future, prayers, or whatever God puts on your heart. Continue to store these blessings in the special box throughout your child's life. Think of what a treasure it will be in your child's adult life to have this blessing box!

Family Time

What is Family Time?

The idea of family worship is both attractive and intimidating. The thought of beginning a new pattern of worship in the home can be overwhelming for those just beginning. This guide includes answers to basic questions that we hope will equip you to lead your family in worship.

What does the Bible say about growing together in Christ as a family?

The importance of the family in discipleship is prominent throughout the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:5-7; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15). Husbands are primarily responsible for the spiritual leadership of their wives (Ephesians 5:22-33). Parents, especially fathers, are primarily responsible for the spiritual growth of their children (Ephesians 6:1-3). These are huge responsibilities, but God has promised to provide everything we need to lead our families well, according to His design. As leaders in our home, the critical thing to remember is that God's Word must be written upon our hearts. Our faith in Christ and reliance on His Word should be authentic, tangible, and transparent.

What are the benefits of family worship?

- Family worship brings glory to God. It is a visible reminder for all in the home that God is worthy of our time, attention, and affection.
- Family worship produces joy in the home. Jesus will bring joy to families who worship and grow together. The love of Christ will be more evident in a family where worship is central.
- Family worship effects change in the world. As families read, pray, study, sing, and grow together, they join from their homes in what God is doing across the nations, while influencing each other's lives for generations to come.

What should we do during family worship?

Keep it simple. Consider the following elements as you worship together:

READ—Read a portion of the Bible together. Don't worry if you've already read it in your time alone with God. Reading a chapter a second time will only reinforce what God is teaching you. If children are present and able to read, allow them to do so. Of course, you'll want to explain difficult words and concepts (but don't worry too much if you can't explain everything!).

DISCUSS—After reading the Bible together, work through a simple process of examining what has been read, much like you do in your own time alone with God. Give everyone a chance to discuss the passage and consider how it applies to everyday life. Ideally, you will lead by example and share with your family what you learned in your time alone with God and the difference it has made.

PRAY—Consider praying through the key points of the Bible passage that you have just read and discussed. Ask God to change your hearts, minds, lives, and family accordingly. This specific prayer can lead to a more general time of prayer that uses the letters P-R-A-Y as a guide:

Praise—Worship God for who He is.

Repent—Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.

Ask—Intercede for particular needs in your life and other's lives.

Yield—Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever He leads you.

Try to include everyone as you pray, even if this is on a rotating basis. Additionally, you may want to keep a prayer journal that enables you to keep track of prayer requests and God's answers to those requests.

SING—Sing or listen to music together as a family. If someone in the family has musical gifts, that person may lead some simple songs. If no one in your family is musical, you can sing along with music from a CD or DVD and discuss what the songs mean.

MEMORIZE—Choose key verses or passages to memorize. You may want to work on a verse or passage for a week or a month. Either way, be sure to work together, taking time to understand what you are memorizing. Periodically, set aside time to review verses over the course of the year.

Frequently Asked Questions About Family Worship

1. What if a father or mother is not a Christian?

The commands regarding family discipleship in the Bible assume believing parents. Of course, this is not always the case. In those instances where the father is not a follower of Christ, the mother will need to take the initiative for leading family worship in a non-offensive and non-threatening way. In the case of a mother not being a follower of Christ, the father should lead with compassion and sensitivity.

2. What about a single parent family?

In this case, the responsibility falls to the single parent. This, along with the many other duties that single parents have, may present a significant challenge. However, God will supply great grace and everything we need to raise and strengthen our children in the faith.

3. What about children?

The dynamic of family worship will vary considerably depending upon the ages of the children involved. The goal for every child in the family is not the same. With young children, focus on the importance of knowing God, respecting the Bible, and worshiping as a family. With older children, dig into Scripture more, ask good questions, and discuss how the Bible relates to life and how a relationship with Christ changes us every day.

4. How do I keep things interesting if the ages of my children vary widely?

Regardless of age, include children in planning, reading, singing, teaching, and praying as much as possible and as much as maturity will allow. Make sure to keep things simple, and don't be afraid to keep it short; listen well, and be aware of what is happening in each child's heart and life.

5. What time of day is best for family worship?

Timing is far less important than consistency. Some families prefer to worship as the day begins. For others, evening may work best. Many families prefer to adjoin family worship to the evening meal since everyone may be present at that time.



Deuteronomy 6:7 says,
"You shall teach [God's words] diligently
to your children, and shall talk of them
when you sit in your house, and when you
walk by the way, and when you lie down,
and when you rise up."

Concentrated time in family worship
can serve as a catalyst and support for
"as you go, as you sit, as you walk"
conversations and applications of God's
Word within our families. Encouraging
and challenging our spouses and children
in Christian faith happens best in the
context of real, everyday life. Family
worship builds consistency into our family
routines and opens up many opportunities
and possibilities within our family
relationships.



A Family Time from Genesis 15 & 21

READ

o Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-7

o In this story, we see God's faithfulness displayed—He made a promise and He kept it. We also see Abraham's trust in God's promise, even when the situation seemed impossible given Abraham and Sarah's old age. Because Abraham believed what God told him, it was credited to him as righteousness.

But the story doesn't stop there. Ultimately, all of Abraham's descendants became the children of God, also known as the nation of Israel. Through Israel, God's redemptive plan was beginning to take shape.

So, God's blessing in Abraham's life ultimately brought glory to God. Not only was Abraham blessed with the deepest longings of his heart by having descendants, but God was also glorified through His faithful provision of a son. He swore that He would provide Abraham a son and He did. Glory to God!

We can learn several important truths from this passage. We can trust God. What God says He will do will be done. If we trust in God's promises, God credits this as righteousness. God desires to bless His children for His glory.

The Bottom Line: God has sworn by His name and character that He will do what He says. Because He is truthful in His character, He inevitably upholds His Word. Not one promise of God will fall to the ground. His faithfulness grounds and encourages great faith in our great God.

Questions:

- What are some things God has promised us?
- What are some things that make it hard for us to trust God's promises?
- How is Abraham's salvation just like ours (see Romans 4:1-5)?

PRAY

o Intercession means praying for others' spiritual and physical needs. God tells us in His Word to pray for others. If you desire to read some passages

from Scripture about this, some are listed below.

Biblical Basis for Intercession:

1 Corinthians 10:3-5; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 6:18-21; 1 Timothy 2:1-8

o Take an opportunity for those gathered with you in worship to mention specific prayer needs of others. Pray for each one of these requests specifically.

o Africa is the second largest continent in the world behind Asia and is more than three times larger than the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii). It accounts for almost 15% of the world's population, being home to over 970 million people. Africa is one of the most culturally, geographically and spiritually diverse regions in the world. Sickness, poverty and hunger are widespread in Africa and with little access to proper medical care, industry and quality food and water, these issues are at crisis levels. Christianity is the second most common religion in Africa, behind Islam. While the country is widely evangelized, there are still numerous spiritual needs present within the continent.

- War has ravaged the entire continent of Africa.
- Poverty is widespread and even basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter are a daily struggle for the majority of African peoples.
- AIDS is the largest crisis facing Africa. A lack of education and proper medical care continues to escalate.
- The Church in Africa needs to be more effective in the discipling of new believers.
- Leadership training is much needed within the church. There is currently a lack of funds and solid Biblical resources for training and supporting full-time workers.

Source: Operation World by Johnstone and Mandryk

MEMORIZE

o Genesis 15:6 "And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created to help parents better communicate the Biblical truths. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions to help their children discover the truths of God's Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

o Prepare a bag with a small surprise (candy, cookie, crayons, etc.).

o Say, "I love surprises. Do you? I have a surprise for you, would you like to see it? (Show the surprise) Did you know that God has surprises, too?"

o Discuss how God surprised Abraham because of Abraham's obedience and faithfulness. Say, "Sarah and Abraham were very old and God surprised them with a baby. Old people don't have babies! But nothing is too hard for God. Because of Abraham's obedience God gave Sarah and Abraham a baby."

Children (Grades 1-5)

o Read Genesis 15:5-6 again. To illustrate this point, show a picture of a night sky full of stars. If you have more time, you can purchase stick-on, glow-in-the-dark stars and put them all over the ceiling of a child's bedroom. You can purchase these at Wal-Mart and sometimes they carry them at Party City. If you choose to do this, have your family worship time in the child's bedroom and after singing, turn off the lights so your child(ren) can look up and see the stars.

o To help children understand the concept of God's promise of making Abraham into a great nation and giving Abraham a lot of descendents (offspring), show a picture of one person, then a picture of more people, then a picture of even more people.

o Ask: Do you think it was hard for Abraham to believe that God would fulfill His promise? Why? What would be some reasons that God waited until Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old to give them a baby and fulfill His promise to them? Do you believe God can do hard things?

o Activity: Make a booklet of promises. You can have promises from Scripture already printed for your children to color and make into a booklet, or read through some promises of God and let your children choose one

or two promises to write and hang in their bedrooms or on the mirror in the bathroom where they will see them each day.

o Some promises from Scripture: Psalm 55:22, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 103:11, Isaiah 40:31, Isaiah 41:10, Joshua 1:9, Psalm 34:17, Psalm 91:14, Jeremiah 29:11.

Students (Grades 6-12)

o Do you put your trust in the Lord like Abraham did? What does it look like today for you to actively put your trust in the Lord?

o The word Christian means to be “like Christ”. What does that mean for you when it comes to making and keeping promises?

Church Community

What is Church Community?

With so many young people leaving the church after they are under the leadership of their parents, it is important that we teach the necessity of the church. Scripture says that the church is the Bride of Christ and He has given the church these four responsibilities: worship God, connect with others, grow in God's Word, and go tell the world about Christ. It is important that our children understand the heart behind what the church is meant to be and that our children allow Christ to transform their hearts to serve Him through His church.

We go to church to worship our God who has saved each of us and given us a personal relationship with Him. We go to church to come together to celebrate our Heavenly Father by giving Him our worship. Our children should see families living their lives side-by-side, sharing experiences, caring for each other, being open with one another, and praying together. Our children should know that the church is a place where they can grow in their faith and gain the knowledge that will help them grow closer to the Lord and live a more abundant life. In other words, our children should know the church is a place where we can be transformed. Finally, the church leads us to the point where we must open our eyes and our hearts to step out and follow the nudging of the Holy Spirit to reach the world around us.



Why is it important to bring my toddler to church?

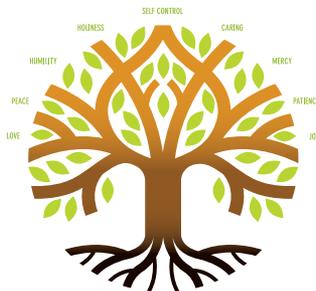
At this age, your toddler can begin interacting and connecting with other children and teachers. Toddlers learn that church is a place where they have happy experiences and can trust others. They begin learning songs with actions and Bible truths that Jesus loves them and is their friend. They get biblical instruction that focuses on their developmental abilities. They learn by repetition, and, no matter how many times a Bible story is told, they are eager to hear it over and over again. The Mother's Day Out program at Immanuel Baptist Church is a great way for children to learn to interact with others and have fun in God's house. The Mother's Day Out teachers are committed to teaching your child about Jesus and being a godly example through their words and actions.



Discipling As You Go

What is Discipling As You Go?

Deuteronomy 6 is clear in its instructions to parents: constantly, as you live your life, be an example and train your children to follow the Lord. As parents, it is important for us to live a consistent life of faith in front of our children. As things happen in life, we should use those events to train our children, not only in right and wrong, but also in how to make decisions to live the abundant life that Christ has for us. We should model and explain how God's truth should be the standard of how we live our lives. In other words, even from the beginning, we should teach wisdom rather than the facts of "do's and don'ts." Faith is much easier caught than taught. Parents should always help their children see life's decisions through the lenses of our faith.



Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." As a parent, the best way you can instill your faith in your children is to let the Fruit of the Spirit be seen in your own life.

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Parenting Tools: *Model*

As a toddler, independence is very evident. How you react to this independence can be a discipline tool. Kids learn by watching adults, especially their parents. They are more affected by what their parents do than by what they say. Toddlers learn how to behave by seeing how their mom and dad behave and by following that example. Challenge yourself to identify the positive things you can model for your child—such as praying with your child, showing love and kindness, attending church, and being patient. Being a godly role model is one of the most important and rewarding things you can do for your child. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

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Parenting Tools: *The Season of Service*

From "Parenting by the Book" by John Rosemond

There are seasons in parenting; in Home 22:6 we call these seasons the root years, the trunk years, and the branch years. The root years could be called "The Season of Service," it begins at birth and lasts approximately two to three years. That is when parents should begin to gradually shift to the next season of trunk years. During this initial season, parents function as servants to a child who cannot serve himself and cannot anticipate the consequences of his actions. His dependency and ignorance (not to be confused with lack of intelligence!) require that his parents place him at the center of their attention and orbit around him in a near-constant ministry of surveillance and "doing" – checking, feeding, carrying, changing, comforting, fixing, fetching, and so on.

The purposes of season one are threefold:

- To "root" the child securely in the world – to assure him that he is where he belongs, with people who love him and who will take good and proper care of him under any and all circumstances.
- To provide for the child's fundamental biological needs – put bluntly, to keep him alive and thriving.
- To prevent, as much as possible, the child from hurting himself.

In all cultures and in all times, the mother has been and is the primary servant during season one. (There have been and are exceptions, but they are individual exceptions that have not significantly tilted the historical norm.) The father, even one who wants to be highly involved, stands slightly outside the periphery of his wife's busy orbiting. He is her "parenting aide." Like a teacher's aide's, the husband's job is to assist his wife and fill in for her when she needs a break. Consequent to this child centeredness, the marriage is "catch-as-catch-can" during season one. (To those of you who have noticed what may appear to be an inconsistency between what I say here and what I have earlier said about mothers orbiting around their children and fathers playing the role of "parenting aide," I will simply say [paraphrasing Ecclesiastes 3:1], "There is a time for everything...but it is not the entire time.")

Now, an infant or young toddler may not yet have well-developed language skills, but he is highly intelligent nonetheless. He is drawing inarticulate conclusions concerning the workings of things in his microcosm (which is the one-and-only world as far as he is concerned), one of which is that his mother is there to do his bidding and that he has power and authority over her. He verifies this by crying, at which his mother appears and does everything in her power to fix whatever it is that is causing his distress.

Grandma (parents of previous generations) understood that whereas her ministry was a necessary one, she was slowly creating a monster. If she did not bring this first season to a close, she was in danger of raising a spoiled brat – a child who would believe that as his mother was continuing to do, so the world revolved around him. She realized that out of absolute necessity she had caused her child to believe that he had power over her, that she was his gofer; therefore, she had to step up to the plate and correct that impression. And so, around her child's second birthday, as he became more capable of doing basic things for himself, Grandma began to make the critical transition from the first of parenting's seasons to its second. Under normal circumstances, this transition takes about a year. It is, without question, the most significant and precedent setting of all times in the parent-child relationship, the future of which hangs in the balance.

To bring about this transformation, a mother must begin:

- Teaching and expecting her child to do for himself what she has previously done for him – use the toilet instead of diapers, get his own cup of water or basic snacks, dress himself, pick up his toys, and so on.
- Building a boundary between herself and her child, thus limiting his access to her – making him wait before she does something for him, refusing to pick him up (pointing out that she is involved with something else), instructing him to go elsewhere while she finishes a task.
- Backing slowly out of a state of high involvement with her child and re-establishing a state of high involvement with her husband, thus bringing his tenure as parenting aide to a close.

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