“Deliberate Discipleship and Parenting”
1 Corinthians 4:11-16
Paul to Corinthians: **Step It Up!**

He taught by demonstrating

Subtitle: “Living the saved life in a fallen world”

vss. 11-13 – “it’s not easy to follow Jesus!”

Vs. 14 – “I write ... to **admonish** you”

Vs. 15-16 – I am your father... imitate me!
1. Tell of God’s Greatness!

“Our God is an awesome God…”
“The heavens declare the glory of God”

Scientists discovery last August....

“Boom!” = GOLD

1 Octillion = 27 zeros =
($1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$)

X 10 in gold (Forbes Mag).
The crash happened 130 million years ago...but the signal didn't arrive on Earth until Aug. 17 after traveling 130 million light-years. A light-year is 5.88 trillion miles.

(1 Peter 3:8)

NASA

Goddard Images
Shaping the Mind/Heart of a Child
Using Wonder!

Santa, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy
Cartoon Heroes

So tell Bible stories.
David and Goliath!
Moses and the burning bush!
Joshua / Jericho walls
Birth of Jesus!
#2 - Teaching a Child About His/Her Creator vs. Evolution

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:1, 27)

If you are created, then He is worthy of worship!

Parenting Principle: model worship

(1 Corinthians 4:16)
Declare Not Only What He Has Made, But What He has Done in Jesus!

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” (John 12:32).

** Watch the eyes!

“The eye is the lamp of the body” (Matthew 6:22).

** Listen for lies and blame.
#3 – Your Children Grow In Your Image! (Gen. 1:26-17)
They will reflect you:
Your children have your DNA.

They learn / repeat your behavior patterns. Good and bad. Proving grounds:
* school, sports
* relationships with people: pride, jealousy, anger, compassion, grace
Bible teaches we are morally /spiritually responsible for our own behavior.

“All have sinned…” (Romans 3:23).

“The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself” (Ezekiel 18:20)
But! Propensities Are Handed Down

“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me” (Exodus 20:5).

How?
Tendency to NOT correct sin in our children when we ourselves have not repented confessed, and forsaken the same sin.
Example: Abraham’s Family Tree

Abraham lied about Sarai (Sarah) to Pharaoh
* failure to trust God (Gen. 12:11-19)

Isaac lied about Rebekah to Abimelech king of the Philistines (Gen. 26:7)
* failure to trust God

Jacob lied to Issac, pretending to be Esau
* failure to trust God (Gen. 27:19)
The Gospel **Breaks** The Cycle!  
(1 Corinthians 4:16)

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

**Dedicate yourself to Jesus, so they will learn:**

* God is holy and sees all  
* God loves and forgives  
* God calls us to holiness and salvation