

Value Packed Parenting:
**The Best 10 Gifts You'll
Ever Give Your Kids**

“How do you do it?”

You've got to have balance, you know, you gotta love your kids. You gotta discipline them. You gotta expect the best of them and I'm telling you, it sets up all kinds of positive things. You want that kid who infectiously feels like they're a part of you. I'm a part of you and you're a part of me and that's one of the things we talk about in the Leman family all the time, that we're each other. We support each other. You want to be there when your kids need you.

What will you put in their luggage?

Filler, socks, underwear? That all wears out. You want to give them what? You want to give them values. You want to teach them virtues. You wanna teach them right from wrong. Okay? So that your kids are gonna be able to take on the many issues that kids face today. Life is much more complex than it was for you when you were growing up.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in a way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

There's a simple scripture but there's a couple of words in that that really get my attention. Word number one is 'up'. Train 'up' a child. Most of us train down a child. Well, train up a child. You wanna train up, not train down. In the way he should go, speaks to not the way you think he should go. It's really speaking to how almighty God would have your child go and I'm here to tell you, they go in different directions and they're not all the same. If you wanna raise rock solid kids, you've got to pour time and effort into your kids. There's no way around it and if you look at the New Living Translation of Proverbs 22:6, listen to it, "Teach your children to choose the right path and when they're older, they'll remain on it."

The Best 10 Gifts

1. Give them safety and security. There's people watching this DVD right now who've been there as a kid and they trusted an adult and that adult violated them, hurt them. You know, they're paying for that today as an adult. Many, many years after the fact, their husband or their wife is paying for it. That's the nature of sin, when sin comes into somebody's life, everybody pays. But what you have to understand is that trust is formulated early in life.
2. Give them love. That's one of the basic things you just have to give your kids. Give them love. Well, everybody knows that. Yeah, everybody knows it but they don't give their kids love. They give a qualified love, a love that says you gotta do it this way, rather than just accepting kids for who they are, making sure they belong.
3. Give them attention. Spend time with them. Quantity, not just quality time. Talk to them, engage with them on any subject about anything. Just get the communication going. Here's the problem. We're not there to talk to our kids. 72% of women in America today, work outside the home. They have jobs outside of the home. They just physically don't have the time to give to their kids.

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4. Give them space. Give them some space to grow. Sometimes kids just need to be by themselves to sort of sort things out. They don't need you hovering over them telling them just how life ought to be. So within that context of giving them space, they need to learn to fail.
5. Give them an example. Kids are gonna learn more from how you live your life. Give them an example that's worthy.
6. Give them direction. Psalm 32:8, "The Lord says, I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." In other words, God gives direction to us so that we can in turn give direction to our children. You don't have to teach kids how to be bad, you have to teach them how to be good.
7. Give them boundaries. Boundaries aren't negative. Psychologists years ago did a study on kids who behave, what their behavior's like. Do they behave better with playgrounds with fences or without fences? Guess what the answer is? With fences. Your kids need fences.
8. Give them responsibility. Kids must contribute and give back to the home.
9. Give them discipline. Proverbs 3:11-12, "My child, don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you and don't be discouraged when He corrects you, for the Lord corrects those He loves just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights." We discipline them because it's a delight to discipline them. It's a responsibility you have to do and when you bring up a disciplined child, they're gonna be able to handle life well. When you punish a kid, I mean, your kid has an event and you enjoy going to the event but you end up punishing him and now he can't go to the event. You know? Well, everybody pays. You like to see your kid do the recital or playing the game or whatever it is. So with punishment, everybody hurts. Everybody loses. With discipline, you got a shot at making life the way it should be.
10. Give your kid biblical instruction through personal faith in Christ.

Be Responsible

You want to hold kids accountable and you want those little boys by the way, to learn to respect their mothers. The key point of that lesson, be responsible. As you watch your kids go through life, I want you to be asking yourself this question, Am I being responsible? Is my son being responsible? Is my daughter being responsible? Are they being respectful? Watch how they do life. Then finally, are they being resourceful? And that's where you work with a kid, to find ways, new opportunities to do life differently and lots of times you actually partner with them. So how do you best teach the three R's? By example and by coming along, when you see them doing life well and just commenting on the fact that, hey, it seems like life is really working out.