

**The five Cs we wanted for our kids:**

1. **C** \_\_\_\_\_

They would feel good about themselves and they would know who they are because of whose they are.

2. **C** \_\_\_\_\_

They would have a moral compass of values - making decisions of integrity, informed by an understanding of right and wrong.

3. **C** \_\_\_\_\_

They would have beliefs grounded on biblical truth, internalized to the point of intentional action.

4. **C** \_\_\_\_\_

They would be secure enough to focus on others and their needs.

5. **C** \_\_\_\_\_

They would be able to function and thrive knowing they have God-given gifts. Having developed some skills, that they would become effective contributors to the world around them.

**Ten actions kids need from caring adults**

**#1: Strong** \_\_\_\_\_ – In your role as a parent (or adult of influence).

- When you welcome a child, you \_\_\_\_\_.

*Jesus took a little child whom He placed among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me..."*

Mark 9:36-37

- Children are a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.

*Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...*

Psalm 127:3-5a

- God gives children to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on His behalf.

**#2: Ongoing** \_\_\_\_\_ – Affection must be provided consistently and appropriately.

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

Romans 12:10

- When children are:
  - Young - they hug easily... \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy it while it lasts.
  - Older - they tend to resist... \_\_\_\_\_ and don't become passive aggressive.
- An unaffectionate father will produce:
  - Boys who don't know how to express themselves emotionally.
  - Girls who will express themselves sexually.

#3: **Encouraging** \_\_\_\_\_ – Children are starving for the fuel of encouragement.

- Children \_\_\_\_\_ their need for encouraging words.

*Thoughtless words cut deeply like a thrusting sword. But the speech of the wise is a healing balm.*

Proverbs 12:18

- Words have the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ a child's life for the positive or the negative.
  - When you see something positive, say it!
  - If you're constantly on their case about stuff, you are conditioning them to avoid you.
- **Key:** Don't \_\_\_\_\_ encouragement back and you won't be disappointed.
- A lot of language directed at kids is either:
  - Shame oriented
  - Performance oriented
- So when they hit a homerun or they strike out, the encouragement is the \_\_\_\_\_:  
*"I love watching you play!"*

### **Encourage toward those five Cs:**

- **Confidence:** “I thought you were very brave... diving in when you were scared.”
- **Character:** “I’m amazed at how patient you are with your little brother.”
- **Compassion:** “I noticed that mom didn’t want to get up from the couch and you got the remote for her. I love seeing you serve other people.”
- **Conviction:** “I was really proud of the way you spoke up about what’s important to you.”
- **Competence:** “I can see the progress you’re making. Your hard work is showing.”

*The words of the wicked are like a murderous ambush. But the words of the godly save lives.* Proverbs 12:6

*A good person produces good words from a good heart and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart.* Matthew 12:35

### **My story...**

- When Jesus changed my heart, my parenting changed.
- The best help will come up short if you don’t understand how God sees you... because you wind up parenting from –
  - a wounded heart
  - a broken heart
  - a wrong identity

*Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.* Ephesians 5:1