

✘ Parental Involvement in Schooling ✘

PARENTAL SUPPORT DURING SCHOOL YEARS OFFER CHILDREN PERMISSION TO GROW AND THRIVE

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Ephesians 6:1-4 ...bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- *In response to the parent in the clown suite...What do you do? Consider doing? Hope? Feel? Imagine? Say? Now what?!!!*
- *In what ways are you most like your parents?*
- *In what ways are you most different?*
- *What are the most important roles of parents?*
- *What do you wish your parents would do more of? Less of?*
- *What is the role of institutions such as schools, congregations, sports and other activities?*
- *What could happen if parenting roles were all "hired" out to institutions?*
- *What are reasons parents need to be involved in their children's education?*
- *What are the benefits? The hindrances?*
- *What did you think Jesus learned from his parents? From God as his father?*
- *How have your parents affected your values? Attitudes? Beliefs? Faith?*
- *In what ways have your parents been involved in your schooling? How has their involvement or lack of, affected you?*
- *If you were a Jr. High student and you had to choose, which would be better—parents being completely uninvolved in your school or involved in everything?*
- *What would the perfect parent be like?*



Now What?

Just as in the story read at the beginning of the session...there comes a point where you simply have to sit back and think...now what?

- I want...
- I see...
- I don't understand...
- I hope to...
- I will pray...
- Jesus lives in this discussion by...

Candle Time

Think about how God has blessed you in your life at school through your parents. For Example—Thank you, God...
 ...for my parents who have supported me by...
 ...for my parents who have taught me to value...
 God as I continue in school I ask...

EXPLORE

- Proverbs 22:6—Train a child in the way he should go...*
- Deuteronomy 4:10—Teach my words to your children...*
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7—Impress my commandments on your children's hearts...*
- Proverbs 17:6—Children's children are a crown to the aged...*
- Ephesians 5:22-33—Wives and Husbands*
- Luke 2:41-52—The boy Jesus at the temple*



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Parent's involvement is necessary in learning, faith, beliefs, values and attitudes of their kids

Background

Have you ever wondered why some children seem to grow and thrive more during the school years than other children? Do you ever question why some children seem better adjusted than others as they go through those awkward years of education? While there is no exact science to nail down the answers to these questions, much is said for parental involvement during the school years of a child.

In Ephesians 6:1-4, God gives very distinct directions to parents about raising children, "Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." This speaks directly to teaching children about Christ and his saving works as well as the history of our faith and the stories of faith.

Some parents mistakenly think the roles of education, be it spiritual, cognitive, physical or any other can be handed off to institutions. While institutions can be helpful children learn their main values, beliefs, and attitudes from their parents. Basically, what is important and demonstrated by parents is what kids will learn. It is necessary for parents to be involved in the schooling of their children. Having parents involved in school is something that is so important – it creates accountability, allows parents to see another side of their child, and strengthens bonds.

Motivate

"Just imagine: You're a Junior High student, very aware of what everyone must be thinking about you, and sensing that you do not quite fit in. It's not that you are weird; it's just that sometimes everyone else seems to be more normal.

"And then...you are sitting in that typical class – listening to the teacher who does not understand that lipstick should go on her lips instead of her teeth and she has once again forgotten to pull her skirt down below her slip, and you are trying hard not to fall asleep. You really don't think that this class can get any more boring when...

"...in walks one of your parents wearing a giant clown suit!!"

What do you do? Consider doing? Hope? Feel? Imagine? Say? Now what?!!!

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