

No. 29 **The Responsibilities and Rewards of Parenthood**

PLEASE NOTE: Clearly explain the Scriptural responsibilities of parenthood. Speak in a positive, upbuilding way about both parents and children. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate points where indicated

THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL PARENTING (4 min.)

How can you meet the challenge of raising children in today's world?

Human advice is unreliable; Jehovah God's counsel produces the best results (Isa 48:17, 18)

Be guided by Bible principles, not by local culture or customs

If you seek Jehovah's guidance, he will help you to succeed (Jg 13:8, 9; Ps 32:8)

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PARENT (15 min.)

Children are a trust from Jehovah, so parents are accountable to God for the way they raise their children (Ps 127:3, 4)

Parents need to provide physically for their children; however, parenthood involves much more than that (1Ti 5:8)

Help your children to build a strong relationship with Jehovah [Read Deuteronomy 6:6, 7]

Maintain a peaceful, loving home atmosphere; by doing so, you will help your children to thrive (Col 3:12-14) [Image 1]

Do not abdicate your role to grandparents or to extended family (w14 4/15 20-21 ¶13-16)

Fathers should take the lead in providing spiritual training and loving discipline (Eph 6:4)

Children need to feel their father's love and protective care (w08 10/1 19, 21)

Mothers play a key role in caring for their children's physical and emotional needs (1Th 2:7)

The Bible emphasizes the importance of a mother's instruction and discipline (Pr 1:8)

The assignment to care for children is a weighty one, not a demeaning one

Single parents face unique challenges, but they can succeed with Jehovah's help (w03 11/1 16-17 ¶14-15)

Stepparents can promote unity and peace by being impartial and avoiding favoritism (Ro 2:11)

Encourage open communication; be patient and allow time for all to adjust

TRAIN AND DISCIPLINE IN LOVE (8 min.)

Train your children from infancy (2Ti 3:15; w13 8/15 16)

Teach them wholesome moral values (g19.2 14-15)

Bible-based material for training children and teenagers can be found on jw.org

Provide needed discipline [Read Proverbs 3:12]

Discipline includes loving guidance, training, correction, and sometimes punishment (Pr 13:24; 29:15)

Imitate Jehovah by disciplining in love, never in uncontrolled anger [Image 2]

Set clear boundaries; be consistent and reasonable

Provide a good example for your children; it will likely be more powerful than what you say

THE SATISFYING REWARDS OF PARENTING (3 min.)

Jehovah will bless your efforts to help your children become responsible adults

Parents find great joy when their children respond appreciatively (Pr 23:24, 25)

You will enjoy the reward of knowing that you cared for your trust from God in the way that he approves

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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