

All I Really Need To Know I Learned From My Children

(Psalm 127:3)

- Introduction:
1. Obviously, the title of this lesson is a hyperbole.
 2. Though we live in a youth driven culture, I am not one who minimizes and dismisses the wisdom, authority, value, and respect of adults.
 3. However, there is great value in young people
 - a. (Psalm 127:3; Matthew 18:3; Isaiah 11:6).
 4. I want to share with you several lessons I learned from my children.

I. I Learned Responsibility

- A. On February 29, 1988, Kelli was born.
- B. I had prayed countless prayers in the months leading up to her arrival, but the depth of the responsibility I was taking on had not registered with me.
- C. (Luke 17:1-2) - Woe to him who brings offenses.
- D. I soon found myself in the position of decision maker.
 1. What would we allow?
 2. What would our limits be?
- E. How to discipline without disheartening your child (Col. 3:21).
- F. This has given me a better understanding of what God experiences.

II. I Learned That Right Isn't Easy

- A. Michael was bitten by my sister's dog and had to get stitches.
- B. He cried out for help as the doctors worked on him, but I stood by and didn't answer his cries for help.
- B. (Matthew 7:7-11).
- C. (1 John 5:14-15).

III. I Learned The Sorrow Of Separation & The Joy Of Reunion

- A. Matthew and the lump in his throat when we would leave his grandparents.
- B. (Revelation 21:4).
- C. (2 Samuel 12:23).

IV. I Have Learned The Joy and Pain of Fatherhood

- A. Anne Marie's first smile was directed at me, and those positive responses bring great joy!
- B. How must God feel when we respond to him in a positive way?
- C. (Luke 15:7,10; Ephesians 4:30).

- Conclusion:
1. Let's not get so caught up in being teachers that we forget we're also students.
 2. While I have learned lessons from my children, these same lessons help me to better understand my heavenly Father.