

Listen to the video "DINNER TABLE SPIRITUALITY."

PRINCIPLE #7: DINNER TABLE SPIRITUALITY

Communicative cohesiveness can be developed through dinner table connectedness

"Standards - feelings - reasoning processes - spirituality/should all be in open dialogue in a family."

How often are you together for a daily meal? Is this something that can be planned and kept? Do you see the need and have the will to do this as a couple?

What mechanisms do you implement to produce connectedness and communication when you are together as a family? (reading, game nights, planned subject discussions)

Listen to the video "BUILDING UNDERSTANDING."

PRINCIPLE #8: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING LINE UPON LINE

Line upon line, layered instruction. Bring the Living Word into your home by example.

- Tell family stories about what is happening at work and school.
- Model, build, and discuss character in light of everyday experiences.
- Pray together when substantive things happen to ourselves or others we know.
- Encourage heart sensitivity vs. mere compliance or "doing the right thing."

Which of these are most attainable for you? The most unreachable?

In what ways do you feel adequate to provide this kind of guidance?

In what ways do you feel inadequate?

Listen to the video "SOMETHING EXTRA & BUSYNESS."

PRINCIPLE #9: SOMETHING EXTRA & BUSYNESS

It is important to practice elective involvement in extra-curricular activities, as well as limit electronic connections with society (texting, social media, video games).

"Don't let the tail wag the dog."

If we are not in agreement as a family about the standards by which we negotiate current cultural entanglements, family life will always suffer. What are your family agreements and how do you communicate and negotiate each within your "family culture?"

"Self-indulgence in no way equates with either happiness or depth of character." How do parents say no without alienating family members? In what ways is this a leadership issue?

Listen to the video "THE VIGILANT HOME."

PRINCIPLE #10: THE VIGILANT HOME

Perseverance & diligence (vs. sporadic and lazy).

Would you consider your family one that perseveres and follows through or is pretty much start-stop?

Would you describe your family as industrious or unmotivated (or even lazy)?

Listen to the video "COMMON SENSE PARENTING."

PRINCIPLE #11: COMMON SENSE PARENTING

Educate and **challenge** yourself in common sense parenting...it is a life-long quest!

In what ways do you feel you are a "common sense" couple and family?

In what ways do you feel you are weak in common sense as a family?

Listen to the video "PARENTING IN COMMUNITY."

PRINCIPLE #12: PARENTING IN COMMUNITY

Walk with others who hold parenting in high regard...community can be a huge help!

Who are our best shot for friends that share our values as well as spiritual interest?

Where are my outlets and inlets for older and younger interaction?

FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT ANY FAMILY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE AT 4@Fourthstream.com

We hope you enjoyed this mini-course experience. Your spouse and children are your greatest gifts from the Father. May you find fulfillment beyond your wildest dreams when you look back upon your marriage and family journey. You can also engage more of our Strong Homes course at 4@Fourthstream.com.

- Dave and Burney and Friends