

# The Understanding Years

Parenting is not always a fulfilling and encouraging process. In fact, sometimes it can be downright frightening! Here are some of the less desirable pains that must be courageously faced. Anything look familiar?

- \_\_\_ ENDURING YOUR CHILD'S MISTAKES  
This is especially difficult when it reflects poorly on you!
- \_\_\_ DEALING WITH OPEN OR PASSIVE REBELLION  
This is especially difficult when it reflects poorly upon you!
- \_\_\_ SUDDEN OR IMPENDING EVIDENCES OF GEEKINESS  
This is especially...well, you get the idea!
- \_\_\_ PEERS BEING THROWN IN YOUR FACE  
Being taken for granted.
- \_\_\_ BEING EMBARRASSED BY SOMETHING YOUR CHILD DOES OR SAYS  
Being let down by your children.
- \_\_\_ FACING THE FRUITS OF THEIR INEXPERIENCE, LAZINESS, AND LACK OF INTEREST  
Patiently dealing with lack of follow through.
- \_\_\_ DEALING WITH THE FACT THAT THEY BREAK MY THINGS  
Dealing with the child who is so much like me.
- \_\_\_ DEALING WITH THE CHILD THAT IS SO MUCH LIKE MY SPOUSE

What does this reveal about the Understanding Years? Does anything relate to your situation?

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These are indeed painful at times, but remember, there is not a parent who has ever parented who has not felt some or all of the same pains you are experiencing. There are also great rewards...

### THE PRIZES OF PARENTING

These are worth the investment and the wait!

- \_\_\_ Seeing your child value and practice moral purity.
- \_\_\_ Observing as your child is not swept away by greed.
- \_\_\_ Viewing your child's personal spiritual interest.
- \_\_\_ Enjoying your child as an independent thinker who is discerning.
- \_\_\_ Raising an industrious child.
- \_\_\_ Observing your child's ability to relate to others and to live with compassion.
- \_\_\_ Raising a child who is wise and harmless at the same time.

What are your thoughts about these prizes?

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