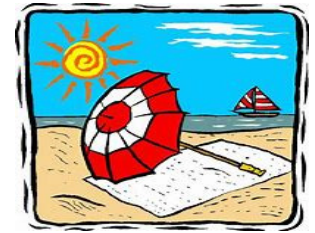


The Family Friend



A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

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Helping the Next Generation

Joshua and his generation knew the Lord and witnessed the way he worked to force Pharaoh to release them. They saw his care in the wilderness. Joshua's generation remained true to his will. They seem to have failed to tell the next generation of the Lord's powerful deliverance (Judges 2:7-10).

The nations Israel failed to drive out were polytheists. They had no problem worshipping the true God and their false gods at the same time. Israel was to forsake all other gods (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; 13:6-18). Israel failed to see the danger. She is described as laying down to prostitute herself with false gods (Judges 2:11-13). They committed spiritual fornication, sinning against God, their husband (Hosea 2:2-13).

God had to punish such wickedness to remain righteous (Psalm 89:14). He delivered them into the hands of enemies who took the spoils of their land (Judges 2:14-

15). The Almighty did not cease to love them. He sent judges to deliver them when he heard their groaning (Judges 2:16). They enjoyed the blessings of deliverance, but went right back into idolatry when the judge died, which resulted in God being angry with them (Judges 2:17-19, 20-23).

We are blessed far beyond physical Israel (Ephesians 1:3). We should make it a point to emphasize those blessings to our children (Ephesians 6:4). Teach them the will of God (2 Timothy 3:15). Help them recognize the blessings to be found in Christ. We must demonstrate the love of God in all that we do. Pray our children will follow our example and not suffer the wrath of God when he is spurned.

Gary C. Hampton, via
Preacher Stuff



The Welcomed Stranger

Years ago a family met a stranger. He seemed like a decent guy, so they invited him into their house. He was an incredible storyteller and very personable (though he was an incessant talker). The kids especially loved him. He would guide everyone's imaginations through adventures and mysteries like no one could. He would tell jokes until their stomachs hurt from laughing. He even had an amazing knowledge of animals and other facts about life.

As you might imagine, it didn't take long for this stranger to become very popular with the family. This stranger connected so well with the family that they wanted him to stick around. So, nearly every day he would captivate the family for hours with his incredible tales.

Even though this family was an upright Christian family, the stranger didn't seem to want to abide by their rules. Every once in a while a bad word would slip out. The parents shifted uncomfortably,

but they never said anything about it. Sometimes he would drink and glamorize a life of alcohol. There were even a few times when he had drugs. Beyond all of this, he talked openly about sex. At times he would use suggestive, blatant, and descriptive terms. He made it seem like fornication, homosexuality, and transgenderism was very normal and common among people. The parents felt increasingly uncomfortable but still didn't want to confront him. So, day after day this stranger continued to display questionable words and actions.

What was this stranger's name? This family simply called him...TV.

Nearly every household in America loves this stranger. Over 90% of all American households have a TV in the home. In 2017, the average American consumer spent almost 4 hours per day watching TV ([Statista](#)). In addition to this, adults were watching over 5 hours per day ([New York Times](#)), and older people were watching over 7 hours per day ([Marketing Charts](#)).

We would NEVER allow an actual person to come into our homes speaking and acting in such ways. So why do we allow it to happen through our TVs, phones, and computers?

Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

This applies to every part of our life. Does our TV, phone, and computer activities fit within these guidelines?

—Brett Petrillo, *BP's Fuel for Thought*

Then They Left

I was there for their first moments here,
Just an hour or two ago (it seems)
They arrived with fanfare and our united cheer
An awesome responsibility, but better than our fondest dreams

They were so dependent, small and needy
We had to do everything for them
But boy the days and years elapsed, so speedy
Though each memory is vivid, not dim.

They were at our dinner table, laughing and talking
In the yard, at the park, and at church
Inquisitive, innocent, working and walking
Their way through childhood, each day a new search.

They grew close together and enriched both our lives
Always amazing us with their heads and their hearts
Could we imagine they'd speak of jobs, much less wives?
Rascals made of frogs, snails, and dog tails, equal parts.

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But the stages rushed on one after another
We couldn't stop them, even if we'd have wanted
Their influences grew beyond father and mother
And they embraced each change, eager and undaunted

How quickly the boys changed to men,
From "roof trucks," "poppers," and cartoons,
Bob the Builder, Digger Doug, library loads, and then
Like that, on their own, way too soon!

I say, but really, it's why God gave them to us
To nurture, to love, and to train,
To bond and build Him servants, what a trust!
Such a stewardship, though we now feel heart pain.

We'll continue to be concerned for their well-being,
And wonder how they're doing today,
Though their absent in body, we know we'll be seeing
Their fruits as they strive to go the narrow way.

God gave them to us, Carl, Gary, and Dale
Starting way back in 1993,
We knew we'd be returning each, but without fail
It was hard, but we entrust them to Him most mighty!

—Neal Pollard, *Preacher Pollard's Blog*