

# PARENTING

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# ready or not!



52 devotions and  
tips for new parents

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## Now what do I do?

You probably ask yourself that question several times a day now that you have a baby. Be encouraged! You're not alone in your quandary. Every parent, whether new or experienced, faces times of uncertainty.

**Parenting ▶ ready or not!** offers you verses of Scripture and practical advice to encourage you in your parenting role. The devotionals are arranged according to parenting themes for your easy reference. The Scriptures in these devotionals apply directly to your parenting role. You will discover parenting tips to assist you in working with your child. You won't find sugar-coating on these parenting thoughts; they come from real-life situations!

Pick this book up during a quiet moment while your baby is sleeping or during a stressful time when you are feeling overwhelmed. As you read, you will find support for your parenting. Some of those parenting questions might just go away!

## Adapting to your new baby

**Scripture ▶** *Matthew 18:4, 5—Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.*

**Devotional thought ▶** Children are of great importance to Christ! During His earthly ministry, Christ took time to interact with children. He chastised His disciples for not spending time with them. As a parent, you are following the Lord's priorities when you focus on the needs of your baby. Making a shift in your priorities is more easily said than done. After your baby is born, your life suddenly becomes much more complex! You no longer have the freedom to go wherever you want to go and do whatever you want to do. Your decisions impact your baby's welfare.

As you go through the days and nights of feeding, diapering, and rocking, remember that Christ places great importance on your parenting role. Christ says that as you care for your baby, it's as if you are receiving Him.

**Parenting tip ▶** It's 7:00 p.m. and you realize that you haven't showered for the day yet. Welcome to parenthood! A baby changes life drastically. Learn from other parents about how they manage the care of their baby—ask them for special tips. Being flexible is a key ingredient for adapting to life with baby. Be able to adjust your plans. Take advantage of times when your baby is in good humor and run errands with baby in tow. Develop a mindset of expecting the unexpected. Don't let yourself get frazzled if things don't go as planned.

1. What events or hobbies might you need to limit in order to put your baby's needs before your own needs?
2. What outdoor or indoor activities can you enjoy doing with your baby?

