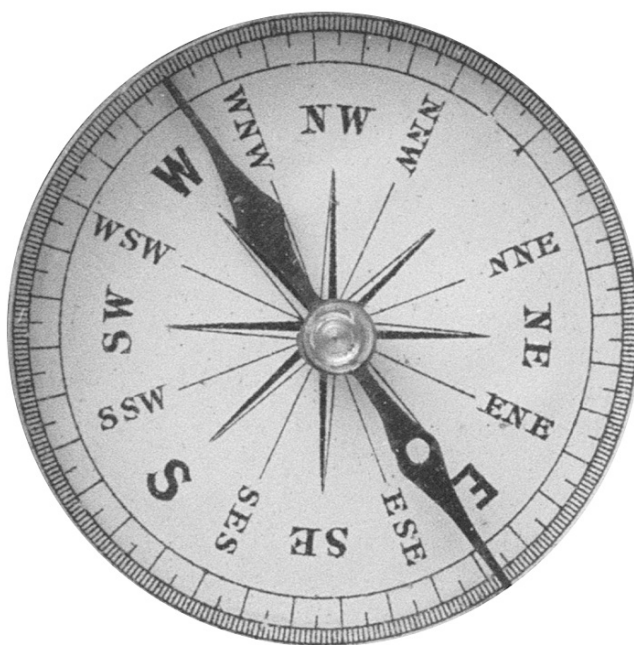


# **IMPACT** PARENTING

*Equipping Children to Navigate Life*



**JOHN AND DARIA GREENING**

 **REGULAR BAPTIST**  
**Press**

*Impact Parenting: Equipping Children to Navigate Life*

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## **For Greatest Impact . . .**

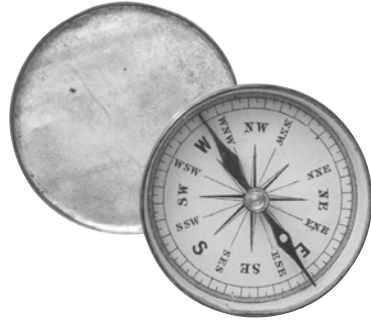
*Impact Parenting* is designed in a workbook format. The intent is to lead you in the adventure of Bible discovery and application. You may use the book on your own, as a couple, or in a group with other parents.

You will maximize the benefits of this book by reading the suggested Bible passages and responding to the questions. Filling in the charts will assist you in recognizing the practical value of Proverbs. The teachable moments sections provide projects you may use to teach the principles of Proverbs to your children. The columns on the outside margin of the pages are available for you to jot your questions and ideas.

As with the academic development of your child, the goal of maturing in wisdom is not achieved quickly. The process is one that will extend over many years. We recommend that you make Proverbs and *Impact Parenting* your long-term companions.

Proverbs contains a variety of principles. Many are suitable for any age child; some are more appropriate for older children. As you work through *Impact Parenting*, indicate in the margins the projected time when you plan to teach a particular principle to your child or when you plan to use a suggested activity.

The best parenting approach is to be a proactive leader rather than a desperate reactor. By intentionally providing positive instruction as your child grows, you can help him or her avoid poor or wrong choices. Don't wait until a crisis happens. Teach early and teach often.



# Introduction

**I**F YOU HAVE FLOWN a commercial airline, you are probably familiar with the headsets available for passengers' use. By plugging in the headset, you can listen to a variety of music or instructional business channels. Some flights include a channel that carries the communication between air traffic controllers on the ground and pilots in the plane. If you listen closely to the flight numbers, you can identify the information that is being exchanged for your plane.

During a recent flight, the two of us had the following discussion regarding the “pilot” channel.

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*John:* Listen to the pilot on channel 9—it’s fascinating!

*Daria:* No thanks! I’d rather not know what’s going on. Just get me safely back on the ground!

*John:* It's amazing that a person from a remote location can inform the pilot about surrounding aircraft, wind variations, storm tracks, and ground traffic.

*Daria:* I'm glad the controllers are there. Without them, pilots would be in serious trouble!

*John:* Yes, if our pilot relied solely on his field of vision, we would have a disaster!

*Daria:* Don't mention disaster! That's why I don't listen in!

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When writing this study about parenting, our thoughts turned once again to air traffic controllers. Their role with pilots is similar to our role with our children. As parents, we provide relevant information to our children to help them safely navigate life. Left to their own inexperience and limited field of vision, our children would be at high risk for disaster. They need the wise instruction of parents who have greater knowledge, more experience, and a broader perspective to guide them safely through their formative years.

God designed the book of Proverbs as a navigational resource for parents to use with their children. Proverbs contains hundreds of wisdom principles. By deliberately and diligently teaching these principles to our children, we will equip them with the moral and ethical directions to safely navigate life's circumstances.

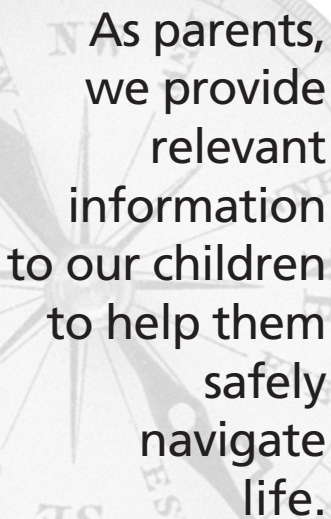
*Impact Parenting* will help you become proficient in using the book of Proverbs as a key teaching tool in the instruction of your child. Give yourself to the study of Proverbs. It may be the greatest investment you will make in your child's future.

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*Daria:* Have we landed yet? Can I open my eyes?

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Happy navigating!  
John and Daria Greening



As parents,  
we provide  
relevant  
information  
to our children  
to help them  
safely  
navigate  
life.



## LESSON 1

# The Right Investment

*“Wisdom is the principal thing;  
therefore get wisdom” (Proverbs 4: 7).*

**A**S PARENTS, WE INVEST our time in a multitude of ways. Careers, church activities, community service, household duties, and recreational pursuits all vie for our attention. Our schedules can be a whirlwind of activity that lasts from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., seven days a week. In the midst of our busyness, we must ask ourselves, “What ratio of our time are we investing in the training of our children?”



**Proverbs 1:8; 4:1-4; 31:1**

*What indication do you find that parents should play an important role in helping their children gain wisdom?*




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*What benefits come to the young person who accepts his or her parents' wise teaching and counsel?*

Proverbs	Child's Benefits
<b>2:10–12, 16</b> 	
<b>3:1–4</b>	
<b>3:21–24</b>	
<b>4:10–13</b>	

Are these benefits something you want for your child? If so, teach him or her wisdom principles from the book of Proverbs. Your child's wisdom portfolio will grow as you make consistent, deliberate deposits from Proverbs. You will help your child grow in godly wisdom and guide him or her in the path of right living.

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*John:* My father recognized the value of the book of Proverbs. He began making regular deposits of this book in my young mind. Every weekday morning before I left for school, my dad read to me a chapter of Proverbs for the corresponding day of the month; e.g., he read the tenth chapter on the tenth day of



the month. He consistently maintained this habit through my junior high and senior high years. Gradually, these Biblical principles accumulated in my mind. They produced a rich personal account of wisdom from which I continue to draw today.

# reality check

Proverbs provides inspired curriculum for you to use in the training of your child. However, your child must listen to, accept, and implement these principles in order

(continued on p. 10)


## The Purpose of Proverbs



### Proverbs 1:1–4

This passage provides a purpose statement for the book of Proverbs.

*What qualities will develop in the life of a young person who heeds the teaching of Proverbs? List the qualities and their definitions on the following chart. You may consult a dictionary.*

Proverbs	Qualities	Definitions
1:2 	•	
	•	
	•	
1:3	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	

Proverbs	Qualities	Definitions
1:4	•	
	•	
	•	

Reality Check (continued)

for them to make a difference in his or her life. You may teach your child, but you cannot control your child's response. The proverb "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6) is a general rule of thumb rather than a guaranteed promise. The best influence you can have on your child is to provide wise instruction and live in a manner that is consistent with your teaching.

These qualities provide a superb moral and ethical navigation system to guide young people safely through life. As parents, you can equip your children with this Biblical navigational system by teaching them the principles of Proverbs.

### A Starting Point

Training a child is a big responsibility. The task can be overwhelming! Where is a parent to begin in the task of imparting Biblical wisdom to a child?



#### Proverbs 9:10

*What is the starting point for obtaining wisdom?*




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*What does the fear of the Lord mean to you?*




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*John:* I had a healthy fear of my dad. He was not harsh or unkind. Actually, he was very loving. However, I knew that he was the head of our family. His words and role carried authority. I loved him and held him in high regard. I knew that he expected me to do what he said. His rules were not to be broken. If I disobeyed, I faced the consequences.

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God is our ultimate authority. In respecting God as our Heavenly Father, we must do what He says.

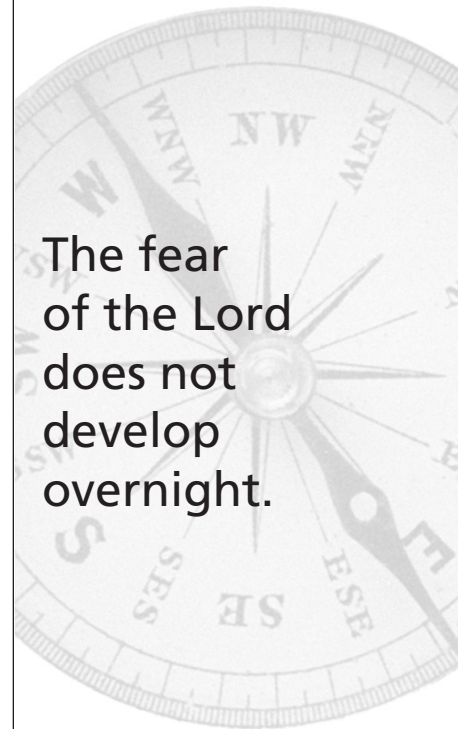
*Why do you think the fear of the Lord is the suggested starting point for wisdom?*



Without a respect for God and His Word, a person will quickly dismiss any accountability to this authority.

The fear of the Lord does not develop overnight. Children cultivate this fear over a period of time. By using the following guidelines, you can help your child develop a healthy fear of the Lord.

- Model respect for the Lord by living according to His Word. Your child needs to know that you take God seriously.
- Use the Word of God to help your child grow in an understanding of God's character.
- Hold your child accountable for his or her behavior. Praise your child when he or she is obedient, and wisely address disobedience. Your child must learn that disrespect will result in negative consequences.
- Expose your child to past and present examples of God-fearing men and women.



# reality check

Take the study of Proverbs with your child beyond mere lessons in ethical principles for character development. Introduce him or her to the life-changing transformation that comes from knowing Christ as Savior. A good moral person is still a lost person without Christ.



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS *for Parent and Child*

- Establish the habit of having family devotions in your home. If you need age-appropriate devotional materials, ask your pastor for his recommendations or visit a local Christian bookstore. Show the authority of God's Word in your life by reading from the Bible in family devotions.
- Does your child have his or her own Bible and carry it to church on Sunday? If not, purchase a Bible for your child. Help him or her establish the habit of taking it to church. By doing so, you are underscoring the importance of God's Word.
- Read aloud the biographies of Christian workers. Discuss the characteristics that made these men and women great servants.
- Invite pastors and missionaries into your home for a meal. Include your child in the dinnertime conversations. Encourage your child to ask questions of the pastors and missionaries.

### Know the Source

In addition to cultivating the fear of the Lord, you must introduce your child to a personal relationship with the Source of all wisdom.



**Colossians 2:2, 3**

*Who is the Source of all wisdom?*



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Does your child know Jesus Christ as Savior? If not, take time to explain to your child how to be saved. (Refer to the plan of salvation that follows.)

## The Plan of Salvation

Use these truths to explain to your child how to be saved.

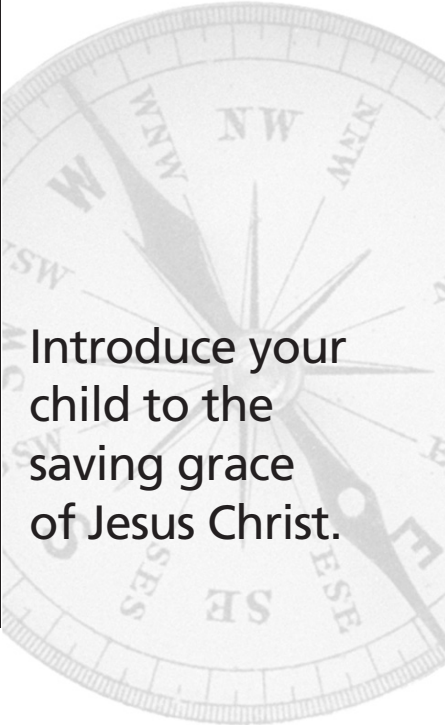
- God loves every boy and girl, every teenager, and every adult in the world. That means God loves you! Because God loves you, He did something special for you.
- Every person is a sinner. Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned.” Your sin deserves punishment. That punishment is separation from God forever. Jesus, God’s Son, died on the cross to take your punishment and to forgive your sins.
- You can have your sins forgiven by believing in Jesus. You must
  1. believe that Jesus, the Son of God, is the only One Who can take away your sins;
  2. believe that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for your sins;
  3. trust in Jesus as your Savior.
- If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, you will have everlasting life. You will not go to Hell when you die. You will go to Heaven to live with Jesus forever. Everlasting life is a gift from God that no one can ever take away from you. If you want Jesus to be your Savior, believe in Him now. You can tell Him in prayer about your decision.

“Dear Lord,

I know I have sinned and deserve to be punished. I believe that Jesus loves me and died on the cross to take the punishment for my sins. I now trust Jesus as my Savior. I know that I will go to Heaven someday. Amen.”

(A salvation presentation is available in tract form from RBP, “What Shall I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?” [RBP4007].)

Make the right investment. Invest in eternity. Introduce your child to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Build into his or her life a rich personal account of Biblical principles. The Source of wisdom, Jesus Christ, wants your child to learn the ways of His wisdom. As you teach your child the wisdom of Proverbs, you will be fulfilling one of the Lord’s primary learning objectives for your family.



**Introduce your  
child to the  
saving grace  
of Jesus Christ.**