

Belaying Your Family for Life's Climb

Belay: *The process of securing and safeguarding a climber by using a rope to hold the climber's weight if he falls. The ascending climber and the belayer, or the person holding the rope through a belay device, are a team that is linked together by the rope. Belaying is an important part of the climbing chain of safety and one of the most important skills that any novice climber must master to become a safe climber.*

I. Keep the Summit always in SIGHT.

Deuteronomy 32:46-47 ESV (46) he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. (47) For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

- You and your families very LIFE is found in God's instructions.

II. Keep your hands on the ROPE of Love.

Ephesians 6:1-4 ESV Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), (3) "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. As parents we must practice an ongoing adjustment between LAW and LIBERTY in order for our Children to reach the summit of life.

A. LOVE: TIGHTENING up the slack.

Proverbs 13:24 ESV Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, (12) for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Structured DISCIPLINE – Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 3:11-12

- Discipline must be CONSISTENT
- Discipline must be CONTROLLED
- Discipline must be COMMENSURATE
- Discipline must be COMPASSIONATE

Spiritual DISCIPLESHIP - Deuteronomy 6:4-7

- PRAY Together
- READ God's Word Together
- PRAISE Together
- PONDER Together
- PLAY Together

B. LOVE: LENGTHENING the Rope.

- APPETITE: Encourage your child to have a desire for God.

Proverbs 22:6 ESV Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- AFFIRMATION: your child's value to God and to you.
 1. God created them - Psalm 139:13
 2. God loves them – John 3:16, Romans 8:39
 3. God has a plan for them - Jeremiah 29:11
 4. They are accountable to God – Romans 14:12
 5. God will reward their love for Him – Hebrews 11:6
- AFFECTION: Demonstrate physical love in your home.

- **ASSIGNMENT:** Grant freedoms to your children based on their demonstrated ownership (Maturity)
 1. Give them choices
 2. Let them make mistakes and learn from the consequences.
 3. Give your children responsibilities

Seven signs that your children are maturing intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually...

- ✓ They are able to keep long term commitments
- ✓ They are unshaken by flattery or criticism
- ✓ They possess a spirit of humility
- ✓ Their decisions are based on character not feelings
- ✓ They consistently express gratitude
- ✓ They prioritize others before them selves
- ✓ They seek wisdom before acting.

Tim Elmore - *Nurturing the Leader in Your Child*

Some benefits of effectively belaying your children.

- They will own their faith in God not just go to church out of duty.
- They will see themselves from God's viewpoint and value not societies.
- They will have a passion to use their gifts for God's purposes
- They will seek counsel in making decisions
- They will seek to man and women of honor who understand they are accountable to God
- They child will seek to follow your example

A Biblical Example of spiritual discipleship in the home

Proverbs 3:1-12 ESV My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, (2) for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. (3) Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. (4) So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. (5) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (7) Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. (8) It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. (9) Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; (10) then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. (11) My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, (12) for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Solomon taught his son to...

- REMEMBER – the blessings of obedience (Prov. 3:1-2)
- RETAIN – God's love and faithfulness in your heart (Prov. 3:3)
- RELY ON – The Lord completely in every situation (Prov. 3:4-5)
- RESIST - Pride (Prov. 3:7)
- RESPECT – God's position and power. (Prov. 3:7-10)
- REST – In God's sovereignty (Prov. 3:11-12)