

Biblical Encouragement for Moms

March 24, 2013

Love and Laughter

How long has it been since you have taken time to sit down with your children to play? Play with dolls, or blocks or box games, or playing house with little dishes. If you still have young children at home, be thankful and play fun little games.

I went to Amber's "Country Cuisine" restaurant this week. She served me play food and I used play money to buy it. Her restaurant is decorated cute and the fruit she uses is fruit she has made with clay we made ourselves! (I have included the excellent recipe) She uses math skills, and counts back the change to me correctly.

If you have teens and preteens in your home, do some kitchen time together. Let them help you choose the recipe! **Boys or girls ~make some great food! Give some food away as a gift.** Play ball together, draw together, build together, sew something with your girls, redecorate your main living area. Redecorating does not have to be expensive. Check out the thrift store.

Most importantly, have fun! You can make memories with your family members, that last a lifetime! **Take some pictures while you are at it.** Then, you and your children can look back at those fun times. Put your pictures in a nice picture album. Display some pictures. I have a display that I change every one-two weeks. Everyone likes to see what pictures are on display!

Showing love in tangible ways like this has a great payback. Not every day is equally satisfying, but you will notice that **your children bond with you and want to be with you more** when you take special interest in them. Tell me, what is more important, your spotless kitchen or your children's well being?

I brought two small picture albums that my daughter Heidi and I made. They contain some of our special memories. The pictures bring smiles as we think back to fun times. Even washing dishes can bring smiles!



Joshua & Amber Lindsey entertaining each other as they wash dishes...

Job 7:6 says “ My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle...” Our life moves along quickly. How are you investing your days? Are you loving and enjoying your children?

Psalm 39:4 reminds us “ Lord make me to know the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.”

None of us know how many days we have left. Let’s be sure to use what we have for Christ. There is a time to teach. There is a time to listen. There is a time to hold a child close, There is a time to pray. There is a time to weep. There is a time to rejoice. But don’t forget your time to play. This special time of play will be remembered for years to come.

A time to teach your child: Psalm 37:11

“Come ye children, hearken unto Me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”

A time to listen to your child: James 1:19

“...let every man be *swift to hear*, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”



A time to hold a child close: I John 4:12

“...if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

A time to pray with your child: Philippians 4:6

“...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”



A time to weep with your child: Galatians 6:2

“ Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

A time to rejoice (laughter!) with your child: Romans 12:15

“ Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

Homemade instruments!

Let's take a look at an important Bible principle found in the book of Romans. Please turn to Romans 12:9

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

Be real with your children. Let your love be without hypocrisy.

Dissimulation means “pretending.”

Where is your heart? If it is not in raising your children for God, one day at a time, patiently, lovingly, then you need to stop and repent of your sin.

A pretend love will not work with children. It will not work with God either. Let your love be without hypocrisy. Love them by bringing some joy into their lives. Take an interest in your children.

The verse goes on to say “**abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good.**” Children know if you are hiding some sin. Teach them to abhor sinful practices. If your example is “cleaving to that which is good” as this verse teaches, this will affect your children for good. May your children see you rejecting sin and embracing good and godly choices.

Our topic today is “Love & Laughter.” When you make good choices, your children will be blessed. They will feel secure. (Hypocrisy breeds insecurity.)

Love your God and love your family. Make the sacrifices to teach them well. If you want God's blessing, along with love and laughter in your home, **make everyday special with prayer and planning.** We have had a “Peek at the Week” chart to make everyday special for our children. Do not push your children to grow up. Love them. Laugh with them. Look into their eyes and remember how quickly children grow up....

Clay for Play

(This one hardens. You can paint it.)

We use this clay for making fruit, or even dishes for our play time!

2 cups salt

2/3 cup water

1 cup cornstarch (set aside)

½ cup cold water (set aside)

Stir the salt and 2/3 cup water in a saucepan over heat for about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in the cornstarch and cold water until smooth.

Return to heat and cook until thick.

Let the clay cool a bit, then shape it into little pieces of fruit.

Let your sculptures dry overnight, then use craft paint to carefully paint like real fruit! our make your own special creations.