

*Building Great Relationships*  
**Toddlers, Teens and Everything In-Between**

**I. Introduction**

**II. Traveling the Road From Dysfunction to Hope**

A. Family history

1. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
2. Philippians 1:6 (NIV) *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**III. Building on a Spiritual Foundation**

- A. "Children and youth account for 30% of the world's population and 100% of our future." (Cheri Fuller)
- B. Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV) <sup>1</sup>*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* <sup>2</sup>*"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—* <sup>3</sup>*that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.* <sup>4</sup>*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*
1. Teknon: Anyone living under their parent's roof
  2. Hupakouo: Listening to instruction with such intensity as if to say your very life is depending on it
- C. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (NIV) <sup>5</sup>*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.* <sup>6</sup>*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.* <sup>7</sup>*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

**IV. Practical Steps With Toddlers, Teens and In-Betweens**

- A. Stay connected
- B. Build trust
1. Practice what you preach
    - a. "Who we are and what we do in our home teaches our children far more than what we say." (Joseph Chilton)
  2. Keep your promises

C. Practice patience

1. Guard against justifying your impatience
2. Understand their perspective
3. Listen well

D. Be affirming

1. Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*
2. Good words are worth much and cost little.
3. "The job of every parent is to fill a kid's bucket full of so much affirmation that the world can't poke enough holes in that bucket to drain it." (Les Parrot)

E. Depend on prayer

1. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) *<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**V. Conclusion**