



MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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MAY 14, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Of all the sources of God's wisdom and guidance we have, one of the greatest is the influence of our parents. Much of your character today was shaped by the way your parents lived in front of you. How important it is then, to make sure that we're providing a good example for the next generation.

2. BIBLE VERSE

Athaliah had a bad influence...
which produced bad consequences.

(2 Chronicles 22:3–4, NLT)

"Ahaziah also followed the evil example of King Ahab's family, for his mother (Athaliah) encouraged him in doing wrong. He did what was evil in the Lord's sight, just as Ahab's family had done. They even became his advisers after the death of his father, and they led him to ruin."

Eunice had a good influence...
which produced a great legacy.

(2 Timothy 1:3–5, NLT)

"Timothy, I thank God for you... I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."

3. APPLICATION

The success Timothy had in ministry was in many ways attributable to the character his mother and grandmother built in him. Even if children don't seem to be listening to your instruction, be sure that they are greatly influenced by your presence in their life.



Q. What influences the next generation more, what you teach, or how you live?

Q. What are some ways that you're actively building Godly character in the next generation?

Q. What are some areas where your life choices may be sending the wrong message to someone who's watching you? What can you do this week to change that?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for those who raised you. Then ask Him to help you live and teach in a way that builds the right kind of character for future generations.



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1. ACTIVITY: Gather some small candies / cereal pieces / crackers and give them to your child. Take 2 pieces of paper - on one, right "school," and on another write "mom (or dad/grandma/etc)." Ask your child the following questions, and have them answer by placing food items on either paper. At the end, see whose stack/pile is the largest. Q: Where did you learn to count? Where did you learn how to hug? Who taught you to spell? Who taught you to share? Where did you learn about planets?

Where did you learn about table manners?

(Add your own questions, if you'd like to.)

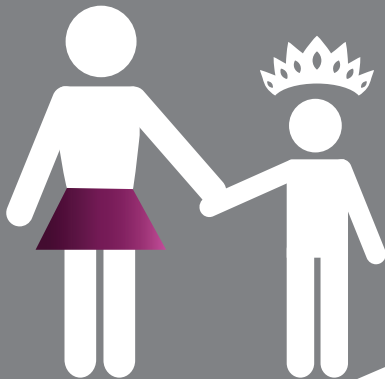
2. BIBLE VERSE

Luke 19:10 (ERV)

"Follow my example, just as I follow the example of Christ."

Proverbs 1:8-9 (ERV)

"My son (or daughter), listen to your father when he corrects you, and don't ignore what your mother teaches you. What you learn from your parents will bring you honor and respect, like a crown or a gold medal."



3. APPLICATION

You can learn a lot of things from a lot of different places and people, but the ones who have the biggest impact on who you are as a person are your parents (or grandparents/etc, based on your situation). God put parents in your life so that you can learn about how to treat other people, how to make wise choices, and how to make God happy with your life. Listen to your parents! Let them help you become the best "you" you can be.

Q. What are some of the people and places you learn things from?

Q. What's the best thing your parents ever taught you?

Q. What's something you want to teach if you have kids of your own someday?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

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