

# Visionary Parenting:

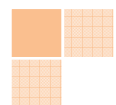
Encouragement for Single Parents

Welcome! I am so glad that you have chosen to participate in this important conference. There were many other things pulling on you, but God led you here. God has a special purpose for this time.

God has given you the most important mission of your life – impressing the hearts of your children with a love for Jesus. My prayer is that through our time together, God will bless you with a clear vision for your role as a father or a mother, and that you will come away *encouraged* and ready to give your very best to raising your sons and daughters for the glory of God.

God's Love,

Rob Rienow



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## Session 1: First Things First

### I. One story – growing up through divorce

### II. Two big goals:

- A. Focus on what matters most
- B. Receive encouragement from God's Word for your most important mission

### III. What's on your plate?

- A. Is success impossible? \_\_\_\_
- B. What will get your best?

### IV. The most important commandment – Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- A. The purpose of your life – and the purpose of your child's life
- B. Mission #1 -
- C. The biblical \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and grandparenting is to \_\_\_\_\_ the hearts of our children with a love for God.



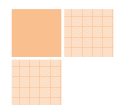
## **V. Sports, School, Friends, and Faith**

- A. This mission has been given to *you*.
- B. God created your family to be a discipleship center.
- C. Who your child is at home, is the “real” child.
- D. Four, power packed moments of the day.

## **VI. Q and A / Additional Notes**

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What was your reaction to the concept “you can’t succeed at everything”?
2. What has been the biggest challenge you have faced as a single parent?
3. How have you seen God encourage and support you as a mother or father?
4. What impacted you the most from Deuteronomy 6?
5. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this session?



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## Session 2: Family Worship

### I. If you can't do it all – what will you do?

### II. Deuteronomy 6:5-7

A. Mission #1 – “Impress them on your children.”

B. Action #1 – “Talk about them when you sit at home”

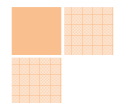
C. Start your engine!

### III. Principles for family worship

A. Family worship is the intersection in seeking a right relationship with God and a right relationship with family.

B. Family worship will be a key attack point of the enemy.

C. Family worship prepares your child's heart for worship in the family of God.



## **IV. Family worship in your home**

A. Start somewhere

B. Six elements for family worship

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

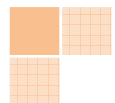
C. Free family worship guides at [www.VisionaryFam.com](http://www.VisionaryFam.com)

Additional free activities available at [www.famtime.com](http://www.famtime.com)

## **VI. Q and A / Additional Notes**

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the religious environment in the home in which you were raised?
2. Up until now, how much prayer and Bible reading has been present in your relationship with your kids?
3. In the spirit of "start somewhere" – what is one small step you could take this week/month toward deepening the practice of family worship in your home?
4. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this session?



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## Session 3: Anger and Forgiveness

### I. Hurt, anger, and hardened hearts

### II. Bitter roots - Hebrews 12:15

- A. Bitter roots grow up to cause trouble and defile many.
- B. The “gift” of numbness.

### III. A biblical forgiveness process

- A. Phase 1 – Forgiveness with the will

Colossians 3:13

- B. Phase 2 – Forgiveness with the heart

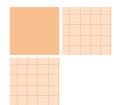
Matthew 18:35

- C. Phase 3 – Reconciliation

### IV. Keep the bucket clean!

- A. Do not let the sun go down on your anger

Ephesians 4:26



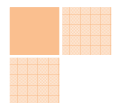
## B. Apologize biblically

1. Confess
2. Acknowledge
3. Express Regret
4. Ask Forgiveness

## V. Q and A / Additional Notes

### Group Discussion Questions:

1. When you were growing up, how did your family handle hurt and anger?
2. In what ways do you see anger having a negative effect in your relationship with your children?
3. What is one specific new approach you learned today which you want to begin to practice with your kids?
4. Is there a specific person who God is calling you to forgive? Are you ready to begin the phases of forgiveness?
5. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this session?



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## Session 4: The Spiritual Battle

### I. The battle is not against flesh and blood

Ephesians 6:10-18

### II. "Pray with all kinds of prayers and requests"

A. Pray for blessing

B. Pray for miracles

James 4:2

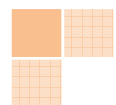
C. Pray for freedom

Exodus 20:4-6

Malachi 2

D. Pray for wisdom

James 1:5





E. Pray for protection

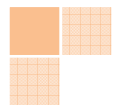
Psalm 91

Proverbs 23:26

### **III. Q and A / Additional Notes**

#### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Which one of the spiritual battles mentioned in this session is the most intense right now?
2. Which of the Scriptures considered during this session impacted you the most?
3. If you had to choose one area of prayer to focus on right now, what would it be?
4. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this session?



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## Session 5: Discipline that Disciples

### I. Discipline situations reveal all the cracks in our character

### II. Four biblical principles for discipline

#### **Principle #1: The purpose of discipline is discipleship**

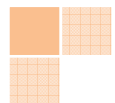
1. Proverbs 6:23 and 19:18
2. Obedience to parents is a precursor for obedience to God
3. "Discipleship situation"

#### **Principle #2: The ultimate goal of discipline is the impressing of the heart.**

1. Deuteronomy 6
2. Every action is made up of the fruit and the root
3. The results of focusing only on outward behavior.
4. The need to deal with passive rebellion.

#### **Principle #3: Discipline that disciples is consistent.**

1. Children thrive in structure.
2. Inconsistency trains children to be professional whiners.
3. Inconsistency trains children that they can break any rule more than once.
  - a. The repeated direction.
  - b. The window for continued disobedience.



c. The empty threat.

d. Consider the “if – then” chart.

#### **Principle #4: Discipline that disciples is connected to God and His Word.**

Step 1: Put yourself, as parent, under God’s word

“What does God say that I need to do as a parent in this situation?”

Step 2: Focus on the action/choice.

“Now let’s talk about what just happened. What choice did you just make?”

Step 3: Bring the action under God’s word.

“What does God’s Word have to say about that choice?”

Step 4: Clarify God’s purposes

“Why does God say not to do that?” – the answer always relates to His love for us and His desire for us to experience His best in life.

Step 5: Focus on the heart/attitude

“Let’s put that aside for minute, and let me ask you a hard question. Why did you make that choice? What were you feeling inside? What was in your heart?”

Step 6: Calmly deliver an appropriate consequence.

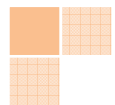
“Because you made this choice, here is your consequence.”

Step 7: Affirm the purpose of discipline and your love for your child.

“Don’t forget, the whole reason we are doing this is because God tells me that I have to help you become more like Jesus. I love you very much.”

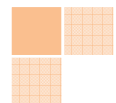
### **III. Final encouragements**

### **IV. Q and A / Additional Notes**



### **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What type of discipline did you experience when you were growing up?
2. What character problems in your heart come out most during “discipleship situations?”
3. What is one specific new approach you learned today which you want to begin to practice with your kids?
4. If you were to choose one behavior to put on the “if-then” chart, what would it be?
5. What was the most encouraging thing you heard in this session?



# Visionary Family

## MINISTRIES

Thank you for participating in the Encouragement for Single Parents Conference. We pray that God blessed you and encouraged you in the mission He has given you to impress the hearts of your children with a love for God, and help them get safely home to Heaven.

You can find additional resources for your family at our website below. You will also find the schedule of our live conferences. We would love to meet you!

Our mission is to build the church of Jesus Christ through a global reformation of family discipleship. We can't do it alone. Would you consider joining our prayer team, promotion team, or financial support team?

Learn more and contact us at: [www.VisionaryFam.com](http://www.VisionaryFam.com)

God's Love,

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