

Excerpts for contemplation, discussion and application from this week's issue of THE LOOKOUT.

Quiet Time For Children (page 3)

"You can instill in them this daily discipline (a quiet time) so they won't struggle with it as an adult."

- How might you have benefited from such teaching (or how did you)?

Modeling the Walk (pages 4 & 5)

"If we are intentional about wanting our children to be followers of Christ, we must lead the way."

- Do you see yourself as a leader to your children? Why, or why not?

"Teach your children to make Christ the center of their lives by modeling this in your own life. Allow your actions to overflow from your identity in him."

- As a result of your relationship with Jesus, what actions come naturally to you today that didn't a few years ago?

"Jesus showed us how to love one another. It is our responsibility as parents to model his love before our children."

- Name three things you can change that will increase the love you show to your children.

Bringing Back the Wonder of Childhood (pages 6 & 7)

"Unstructured family time gives kids an opportunity to enjoy their childhood."

- How is this implemented in your family?

"Our media-driven culture makes it difficult to direct children toward the spiritual. If parents fail to teach spiritual values to their children, the world will supply them with its values."

- What skills could you teach your children that would empower them to choose God's values for themselves?

Teach Your Child Three Simple Phrases for Heaven's Sake (pages 8 & 9)

"In some ways, praise is a discipline more than an outpouring of gratitude."

- How is the action of praise connected to the attitude of thankfulness?

"Perhaps confession and reconciliation to God come more readily to those who learn the language of forgiveness at a young age."

- Did you learn these things in your youth? Do they come easily to you now? How can you bless your children with the benefit of your own experience?

W O R L D W I N D O W S

By *Becky Swinford Gommel*

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name" (Psalm 86:11).

Salt-water taffy. The good old-fashioned homemade kind you can pull and stretch until finally it can stand the pressure no longer and snaps. That is how I had been feeling. Over-extended. Strained. Thinly spread.

The verse jumped out at me as if encased in flashing neon lights. "Give

me an undivided heart" (Psalm 86:11). I immediately claimed this prayer of David as my own.

Lord, in all my daily responsibilities, give me an undivided heart. May I see you in the smiles of my family as they enjoy the food I prepare. May I see you in the faces of my students as I teach them each week. May I see you in the gnarled hands of the precious souls at the nursing home. May I see you in the tears of the single mother needing a listening ear. May I see you in the little

ones needing a hug as they arrive for Bible school. May I see you in the hollow eyes of the teens wandering the streets in our town.

Seeing you in everything I do still reminds me of salt-water taffy, but now the responsibilities taste much sweeter. Make me pliable, Lord. Pull me, stretch me, do with me what you will. But give me an undivided heart. ■

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