

## **Bringing Up Our Children in Light and Truth**

H. Wallace Goddard

2008 BYU Campus Education Week

### **1st Session: Seeing Them with Pure Knowledge: Look on Children with Compassion** (see D&C 121:42)

- A. Understand children's development
- B. Understand children's uniqueness
- C. Understand children's circumstances: Provide emotional "first aid" when needed.
- D. Have compassion for the human condition

### **2nd Session: Bring Them Up in Light**

- A. Love one another as He does:
  - Love as the super factor of Christian discipleship: John 13:34-35
- B. Customize the messages
  - Practical application: Communicate with children in a language of love they will understand.
    - Three particular languages: Show, Tell, Touch
    - Two universal languages: Time, Understanding
- C. Teach children to know and love the Light.

### **3rd Session: Bring Them Up in Truth**

- A. Teach by example.
- B. Teach in preparation for challenges (D&C 68:25, Moses 6:58-68).
  - Help children get what they properly want in a way you feel good about.
- C. Use problems as an opportunity for closeness and growth.

### **4th Session: Positive Parenting**

- A. Know their gifts.
- B. See weakness through the lens of charity.
- C. Pain can be our friend: Turning affliction into gain.
  - Pain alerts us that something we are doing or thinking is not working
- D. Call on God for help

Haim Ginott stated, "Nature always sides with the hidden flaw. Teachers have the opposite role: to side with the hidden asset, to minimize a child's deficiencies, intensify his experience, and enlarge his life" (*Teacher & Child*, p.179).

Urie Bronfenbrenner stated, "Every child should spend a substantial amount of time with somebody who's crazy about him or her . . . There has to be at least one person who has an irrational involvement with that child, someone who thinks that kid is more important than other people's kids, someone who's in love with him or her, and whom he or she loves in return . . . You can't pay a [person] to do what a [parent] will do for free" (*Psychology Today*, May 1977).

---

Essential reading: Doctrine & Covenants 121  
Great "Atonement" chapters: (2 Ne. 2, 9; Mos. 3, 4; Alma 34, 42, et. al.)

Recommended reading: The works of Haim Ginott  
John Gottman's *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child*