Anglican Future Conference 2018

**Helping parents disciple their children**

**Gus and Fiona McLean**

1. **Introduction**
2. **Questionnaire**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Mark down your response to these statements, from*  *1 = strongly disagree, to 5 = strongly agree.*  *(You don’t have to share your responses!)* | strongly disagree | disagree | not sure | agree | strongly agree |
| 1. My children know what is most important to me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I want my children to decide for themselves whether or not to be Christians, rather than imposing this on them. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Children are naturally good and pure. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. What I say is more important than what I do. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I want my children to know that I love them. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Children need to be taught right and wrong. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The primary responsibility for teaching my children about Jesus lies with the church. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I long for my children to grow up to be followers of Jesus. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Bringing up children isn’t hard work if you’re doing it right. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. As parents, we have a responsibility to teach and train our children. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Obeying God is more important than making my kids happy. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. The way we use our money is a very important aspect of Christian parenting. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Parents shouldn’t ever apologise to their children because this undermines their authority. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. The best thing I can do for my children is give them a good education. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I would be delighted if my child grew up to become a missionary. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. If I raise my children the right way, this guarantees that they will become Christians. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. I am able to explain to my children what it means to be a Christian. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. God is sovereign over whether or not my children become Christians, so I don’t need to do anything. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

1. **Christian parents have a responsibility to teach their children**
   1. *The myth of neutrality*
   2. *Biblical commands to teach and train children*

*Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them*. (Deut. 4:9). See also Exodus 12:25-27; Joshua 4:6-7.

In Psalm 78:5-6: *He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,  
6so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children.*

*Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching* (Proverbs 1:8).

*Fathers,* *do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.* (Ephesians 6:1-4). See also Hebrews 12:5-11.

*So how should we go about this? Share your ideas about* ***what parents can do to help their children grow as Christians. What have you done (or seen others do) that’s worked well?***

1. **Key principles**
   1. *Be a good role model*
   2. *Work on your marriage*
   3. *Love your children!*
   4. *Care about their hearts, not just their behaviour*
   5. *Show them that following Jesus is most important thing in our lives*

*Which of these do you think are acceptable reasons to miss church?*

* Another child’s birthday party
* Your own child’s birthday party
* You are on holidays
* You are on holidays (but still at home)
* One of your family is sick
* Your relatives’ 50th wedding anniversary party
* Needing some time out as a family
* You are all tired
* Study
* Your child plays sport on a Sunday morning

How do we do this?

* **Attending church**
* **Family Bible reading and prayer**
* **Money, schooling, career, time, hospitality, lifestyle**
* **Resisting idols**

1. **Q&A**
2. **Reflection**

What are two things that you are already doing that you would like to keep doing?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are two new ideas you hope to try as a result of today’s seminar?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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