Introduction: These are difficult days in which to raise children

Children are a gift from the Lord. Psalm 127:3 (NLT)

- Your child’s world is . . .

- A parent’s challenge is . . .

- The question we’re all asking is . . .

Four Principles for Positive Parenting

1. Effective parenting begins with positive
   ___________ - ___________ _____________!

   Fathers, don’t overcorrect your children or make it difficult for them to obey the commandment. Bring them up with Christian teaching in Christian discipline.

   Ephesians 6:4 (Phillips)

- The principle of Focus

- God’s Dream vs. The human dream for your child
2. Effective parenting demands we _______________ what we ______________.

14I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. 15 Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. 16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NIV)

• The principle of Modeling

• “More is Caught Than Taught”

3. Effective parents build relationships that ____________________________ .

7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. 8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (NIV)

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)
The Principle of Relationship

8 “Keys” that build relationships that bond

1. Unconditional love
2. Scheduled ____________
3. Focused attention
4. ________ contact
5. Ongoing communication
6. Meaningful ______________
7. Have _______________ together
8. _______________ together often
4. Effective parenting requires ___________________   ___________________

   and ___________________   ___________________.

   * If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
   
     I John 1:9  (NIV)

   • The principle of Process

   • 5 magic words  = ___________________   ___________________! 

      and

      ___________________   ___________________   ___________________!

   • It’s never too late!

**Discussion Questions:**

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how positive of a parent are you?

2. Discuss which point was most helpful to you. Why?

3. Where do you need to focus some parenting energy? What specifically will the next step look like?