

## Team Players at the Money Game

By Francine Huff

- Practice the art of listening, while discussing finances as a couple. Don't become defensive, and use "I" statements when discussing feelings.
- Decide to make your finances a joint effort. Work together to achieve your financial goals.
- Establish a system of accountability. Both of you should be knowledgeable about household finances, account information, monthly bills, and the amount of any debt.
- Cut the debt. Total all your debt and form a plan to escalate payments. Agree not to take on new debt while you're paying off existing debt.
- Save for the future. Make stashing cash a priority. Build an emergency savings fund, plan for retirement, and plan for kids' college costs.



Bethel Church's Family  
Ministry Equipping  
Newsletter  
June, 2005

Mission: *Applying God's Word, Seeking God's Wisdom, Growing Healthy Families*  
Vision: *Families Functioning in the Fruit of the Spirit*

"Any child will learn to worship God  
who lives his daily life with adults who worship Him."

—Anna B. Mow

## What Pre-Teens/Teens Wish Their Parents Knew About Them

By Wayne Parker

1. *I am not a child anymore.* Teens want respect for their status as maturing young adults.
2. *I act like I'm ready to be an adult, but I am scared to death of becoming one.*
3. *Friends are becoming more important to me.* Teens are moving gradually from dependence on parents to independence and to friends.
4. *I question lots of things that I didn't used to question.* Teens are learning to think/feel for selves.
5. *My hormones are doing weird things to me, and I can't tell you why.*
6. *I hate THE LOOK.* It could be a stare, glare, or grimace that lets them know they are in trouble.
7. *Sometimes, I just need to be alone.* Teens have a tendency to withdraw a little while they are figuring out their world, retreating to their own space.
8. *Sometimes, I just want you to listen.* We tend to want to problem-solve and jump in with advice; resist the temptation to do so as they deal with it.
9. *I need you to be consistent.* They expect and feel most comfortable when parents stick by a rule and behave accordingly.
10. *Walk your talk.* Teens get frustrated when parents say one thing and do another. Keep your commitments, for they would rather have no promise than a broken one.

## When Kids' Words Drain Your Energy

By Charles Fay

- Say with empathy, "When you \_\_\_\_\_, it really drains my energy. We'll talk about this later."
- Give yourself some time to calm down and think.
- Ask your child how they plan to replace the energy they drained. They can replace energy by doing extra chores, staying home while you rest, hiring themselves a babysitter, cooking dinner....
- Give them a deadline for "energy replacement" and enforce it if they forget or refuse. Some parents find it necessary to do an "automatic allowance withdrawal" or take away a toy.

## Announcing...

- *Single Parents Seeking God* meets Saturday night, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the activity center.
- *Family Camping:* Last call for August 19-21's trip to Central Ferry Park; brochure in foyer for RV or tent camping
- *1-2-3-4 Parents:* a Family U. parenting class for parents of 1-4 yr olds starts Sunday, July 10 for 4 weeks.
- *Family Service Project.* Random Act of Kindness of passing out water bottles at Tri-City parks on Sat, July 16 at 9:30

“We need to patient with our children in the same way God is patient with us.”

—Renee Jordan

**The Magnificent 7:**  
Bethel's 7-week Summer  
Multiplex Theater begins  
Tuesday, June 28 at 6:06  
p.m. for dinner/movie.

### Give Your Child a Parent Report Card

By J. Otis Ledbetter/Kurt Bruner

- **Dad/Mom:**
- \_\_\_ **Shows love to me.**
- \_\_\_ **Is fair in decisions.**
- \_\_\_ **Is interested in my feelings.**
- \_\_\_ **Admits when wrong.**
- \_\_\_ **Spends enough time with me.**
- \_\_\_ **Controls anger and words.**
- \_\_\_ **Listens to what I say.**
- \_\_\_ **Is fun.**
- \_\_\_ **Trusts me.**
- \_\_\_ **Respects me.**
- \_\_\_ **Enjoys being with me.**
- \_\_\_ **Provides spiritual leadership.**
- \_\_\_ **Makes me a priority.**

**Overall grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose Your Own Prayer Adventure

- In addition to your personal prayer for your children each day of the month, pray for a specific character trait/virtue.
- Put a prayer card on the refrigerator for each family member to put prayer requests.
- Keep a family prayer journal.
- Put on your door a sign that says, “God bless your going out and your coming in.”
- Add special people to your family’s prayer list, to pray for during the month.
- Make a prayer calendar for your kids to put names on, for their prayers at bedtime.
- Have a blessing jar at your dinner table that you can add to daily with ways you have been blessed. Thank God for them.

### 7 Pillars of a Kingdom Family

By Tom Elliff

- *Honoring God’s authority. I will glorify God by surrendering every area of my life to Him and offering godly respect in all my earthly relationships, starting in my family.*
- *Respecting human life. I will honor God by expressing self-sacrificial love to each family member throughout the entirety of their lives.*
- *Exercising moral purity. I will honor God by being faithful and pure.*
- *Serving my church. I will support our local church with faithful attendance, diligent service, and generous giving.*
- *Using time wisely. I will have sufficient time for personal growth through prayer, for the study of God’s Word, and for fulfilling every God-given responsibility related to my family.*
- *Practicing biblical stewardship. I will diligently seek my Master’s best interests in the way I earn money, expend it for life’s needs, use it to touch the lives of others, and give it for the support of His work through my local church.*
- *Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I will glorify the Lord by sharing my faith with my family, and be joining with them and others in specific activities which cultivate a passion for fulfilling the Great Commission.*

### Husbanding by Design

By Gary Chapman

- View your wife as a partner. She’s a person with whom to have a relationship, not to dominate/control in order to satisfy your goals.
- Communicate with your wife. One of a wife’s deepest desires is to know her husband; so talk about your thoughts, feelings, and desires and let her in.
- Put your wife at the top of your priority list; don’t be married to your job and give her the leftovers.
- Love your wife unconditionally. This means seeking your wife’s best interests regardless of her response.
- Commit to discovering and meeting your wife’s needs. Most husbands don’t know their wife’s needs and thus make no effort to meet them.
- Model your spiritual and moral values. The closer a man comes to living by biblically sound spiritual beliefs, the more his wife will respect him.