

GOD'S BETTER STORY

THE TEN TRAITS OF A HEALTHY FAMILY

By Dr. Jeff Warren

1. WE HAVE AN IRRATIONAL COMMITMENT TO EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

We will display an illogical love for one another, spread lavishly and without discretion. Driven by 1 John 3:1, stunning amounts of love, kindness, and forgiveness are shared to family member.

2. WE COMMUNICATE WITH TRUTH AND GRACE.

Mom and Dad model Ephesians 4:15 and create an atmosphere where truth can be discussed, regardless of how difficult it may be to talk about. Grace fills our daily actions and conversations.

3. WE AFFIRM THE VALUE AND UNIQUENESS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

Each person is loved for free and without judgment. His or her opinions and feelings are always honored (Romans 15:7).

4. WE VOW NEVER TO ABUSE, SHAME, CONTROL, OR INTIMIDATE ONE ANOTHER.

Understanding that children are impressionable and sensitive - no emotional, verbal, or physical abuse is tolerated in any way and is immediately confronted (Philippians 4:5). Unkind words are not tolerated. "We don't talk to each other like that in our family."

5. WE SHARE A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION.

The Gospel drives all of life. Parents recognize that a "mild dose" of God will never cultivate a life that has Christ at the very center, guiding every aspect of life (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). In fact, half-hearted spiritual devotion produces a confused and duplicitous children and young adults. Parents lead the way by being engaged in the life of the church, talking about the Jesus/the Gospel in the home, and by praying together. Parents ask: What is our ultimate goal in parenting?

6. WE TEACH RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND IT STARTS WITH US.

Racism, arrogant superiority, or disrespect for people who are different is never tolerated (Matthew 22:39). It all starts in the home.

7. WE INSTILL A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN ONE ANOTHER.

Each member knows that they must take responsibility for their own actions and face the consequences of their poor choices (1 John 1:8-10). Parents: Let the consequences do the teaching. It's God's way with us too. When you let the consequences do the teaching you place that child in the hands of God.

8. WE PLAY TOGETHER.

This is so important. Laughter and fun mark a family that builds strong relationships with one another, and with others. (Proverbs 17:22).

9. WE CELEBRATE RITUALS AND TRADITIONS TOGETHER.

It gives the family a sense of constancy and permanence. They know that the love and commitment of the family will never change- this year, next year, and throughout a lifetime (Job 8:8-10).

10. WE SEEK HELP WHEN WE COME TO AN IMPASSE.

They understand that all families have issues that may need outside help and they are not afraid to ask for help when needed (James 5:14-16).