

HELP YOUR KIDS BE GREAT IN THE EYES OF GOD

1. The greatest gift I can give my kids is to love their mother. I've locked the door from the outside. I've tried to love Marilyn with all my heart and soul.
2. We have to create a home where grace is in place. The overwhelming principle that has guided our parenting is unconditional love. We've tried to love our kids no matter what the circumstance or trial.
3. We've tried to find their dreams/gifts and help them accomplish what they desire. It's about THEIR dreams, not ours. Once we discover their dreams/passions, we do whatever we can to help them reach God's goals for their lives. For God's dreams/goals is directly applicable to their gifts.
4. We only have 2 rules upon which we insist. Note there are only 2. We believe to have many more than 2 endangers your home to become legalistic. We want grace to be in place (see #2). They are: You must never: 1) Disrespect us 2) Always obey us. When either of these two rules are broken, there is consistent discipline, usually taking away something that makes OUR lives easier.

This fits into the 2 questions kids are always asking:

–“Do you love me?”

–“Can I have my own way?”

To which we always answer: “Yes” to the first and “No” to the second.

5. We model faith. We believe the Christian faith is best “caught” not “taught.” We want our kids to see us living our faith. We want them to see us having our quiet times, praying, giving to the poor, sharing Christ with our friends. We want them to want who we are more than imbibing our beliefs. If you want your kids to go deep in their faith, go deep in yours.
6. We are willing to apologize when we have made a mistake. Not only does this model grace but it also helps their future relationships and marriages when they make mistakes.
7. We believe that kids spell love T-I-M-E. We know they need our presence more than our presents. We write their events on our calendars. When something may pose a potential challenge, we say, “Sorry, we have another appointment.” Of course, it's with our kids!
8. Regular family prayer and devotions. We teach the Gospel of grace and tithing (especially when they were younger kids). The Eight Greats is a great something to use in this time.