

Put Your Love into Action!

From
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Are you attempting to learn the memory verses along with your child? It is important to help our children memorize Scriptures like today's memory verse, "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions" (1 John 3:18).

Along with the importance of memorizing God's Word, however, it is equally important to allow God's Word to impact our daily lives. Obeying 1 John 3:18 can enrich the quality of our parenting as we consider how to give focused attention to our children. In his book *How to Really Love Your Child*, Ross Campbell states, "Focused attention is giving a child our full, undivided attention in such a way that he feels without doubt that he is completely loved. That he is valuable enough *in his own right* to warrant parents' undistracted watchfulness, appreciation, and uncompromising regard. In short, focused attention makes a child feel he is the most important person in the world in the parents' eyes."¹

Years ago a belief became popular that it's not the quantity of time you spend with your child but the quality. Over the years, I've decided that it's both. What if you went to a fancy restaurant and were served the most juicy piece of steak in the world, but it was only the

size of a quarter? You'd no doubt be begging like Dickens's Oliver, "Please, sir, can I have some more?"

To some degree, our kids are standing and asking, "Please, Dad, please, Mom, can I have some more—of your time and attention?" You might be thinking, *Not my child—she doesn't want to have anything to do with me.* You may have been blessed with an extremely independent child, a leader in the making. But no matter how dependent or independent your child is, the following words ring true: "Kids don't know enough to

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make it up as they go along—we need to show them the way." Think about specific ways you could spend meaningful time with your son or daughter. It need

not be fancy or expensive. A simple activity such as baking cookies or playing catch will do the trick!

I remember the story of the father and son who spent all day hiking and fishing and just hanging out. When they got home, the father wrote in his diary, "It didn't seem like he enjoyed it too much." The son wrote in his diary, "This was the best day of my life." Kids may not always show their appreciation in ways that we readily understand, but rest assured that the love you show through your actions will have a tremendous long-term impact on their young lives!

A Challenge to You

1. Make a date with your son or daughter this week for breakfast, lunch or dinner (at your child's favorite place, not yours). During the meal, ask your child for ideas of things he or she would like to do with you. Then commit to doing one activity together each week or several times a month.
2. Memorize 1 John 3:18 with your child and ask God to let His Word transform your life and your child's life as well.

Note

1. Ross Campbell, M.D., *How to Really Love Your Child* (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 55.

