

CHM LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION
Level III, Course #1

GROWING CHRISTIAN VALUES IN CHILDREN
Linda Koh, GC Children's Ministries
(Handouts)

Psalm 1:1-3

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsels of the wicked . . . But his delight is in the law of the Lord . . . He is like a tree planted by streams of water . . . Whatever he does prospers."

The Values Tree

- Good genetic stock
- Good soil – "goodness of fit"
- Sunshine – of love and warmth
- Watering – with gentle teaching from God's Word and life experiences
- Fertilizer – special teaching experiences
- Pruning – discipline
- Protection – from winds/storms

Strong Values Needed

"Children need more than good food, a nice physical environment and psychological understanding; they need to learn ethical principles—a firm notion of what they ought to do, and what they ought not to do, and why?"

Robert Coles, Family Weekly

Ellen G. White's Counsels

"Parents, teach your children . . . how to conduct themselves in the home with true politeness. Educate them to show kindness and tenderness to one another. . . The principles of heaven are to be brought into the government of the home. Every child is to be taught to be polite, compassionate, loving, pitiful, courteous, tenderhearted."

-- Child Guidance, 143

Why Are Values Important?

- Lights the dark moments of decision
- Points the way to the path of integrity and honesty
- Keeps the soul in tune with God
- Provide a sense of purpose
- Directs the means and ends of actions

- Are standards of conduct

Values Begin with God

- Without God, values die
- God is no longer the source of values for most people
- God's values are sometimes drastically different from the secular values

What are God's values?

- Galatians 5:22,23
- 2 Peter 1:5-7
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Matthew 5:3-11

What Values Are Important to You?

- Faith
- Respect
- Kindness and compassion
- Honesty and integrity
- Patience
- Humility and peace
- Responsibility
- Self-control
- Loyalty and commitment
- Contentment and thankfulness

All values are rooted in **Love**

Effective Methods of Values Transformation

1. MAINTAIN POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Child Guidance, p. 496

*"As the **very best friends** of these inexperienced ones, parents should help them in the work of overcoming...They should consider that their own **dear children** who are seeking to do right are younger members of the Lord's family...With **loving interest** they should teach them day by day what it means to be children of God and to yield the will in obedience to Him. Teach them that obedience to God involves obedience to their parents. This must be a daily, hourly work. Parents, watch, watch and pray, and make your children your **companions.**"*

Effective Methods of Values Transformation

2. MODELING

What Do They Model?

- Parents/teachers' actions, words, and demeanor.
- How they treat others and treat them.
- Their attitudes and behaviors.
- How to handle disappointments.
- What Christians do when they make mistakes—forgiveness in Christ.
- How God is at work in their lives.

Dwight Moody

"Where one reads the Bible, a hundred read you and me."

Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 119

*"Parents are giving to their children an **example** either of obedience or of transgression. By their **example** and teaching, the eternal destiny of their households will in most cases be decided. In the future life the children will be what their parents have made them."*

Effective Methods of Values Transmission

3. TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall **TEACH** them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."*

How to Create Teachable Moments

- Articulate and acknowledge children's actions of kindness, ability to resolve conflicts, hospitality, etc.
- Provide situations to think more deeply about moral issues and dilemmas in various situations.
- Provide events, experiences, and materials to develop traditions/rituals that create a bond in faith.

John Gardner, Self-Renewal, 21

“All too often we are giving our young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to innovate. We think of the mind as a storehouse to be filled when we should be thinking of it as an instrument to be used.”

Teaching Strategies:

- Stories
- Questions
- Real-life situations
- Act-it-out scenes
- Posters and pictures
- Values journal
- Post Bible verses in strategic places
- Pray with children every day

Effective Methods of Values Transmission

4. POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Discipline Guidelines

- Correct misbehaviors with love
- Explain the reason for punishment if there is a need for it, but love should always be the basis of correction
- Avoid being authoritarian – authoritarian parents & teachers who control children through punishment and reward retard moral growth.
- Adults who treat children with respect, fairness and consideration, promote moral growth.

Effective Methods of Values Transmission

5. ESTABLISH FAMILY ALTAR

The Valuegenesis Project on Family Worship

How often does your family have worship?	VG2	VG1
Never	23%	26%
Less than once a month	13%	11%
About once a month	7%	6%
About 2-3 times a month	9%	8%

About once a week	16%	15%
Several times a week	11%	11%
Once a day	15%	15%
More than once a day	6%	8%

Values of Family Worship

- Opportunity for covenant renewal
- Rehearsal of religious heritage
- Testimony sharing
- Values exploration and instruction
- Relationship building

Effective Methods of Values Transmission

6. INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE

Service Projects

- Start an "adopt a grandmother/grand-father program:
- Make cheery cards for placement on food trays in the hospital & nursing home.
- Volunteer at a local soup kitchen.
- Clean up a park.
- Rake leaves, cut grass, etc. for elderly.
- Bake cookies to give to poor students.

The Responsibility of Parents and Teachers

- Live the values
- Teach the values
- Make right and wrong very clear
- Give lots of practice in making decisions
- Show your child how to deal with peer pressure