

BE A HERO TO OUR CHILDREN

- **Be COMMITTED for the long haul.**

Proverbs 22:6 (gnb) Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.

Be the best role model to your children. In marriage, character, and our Christian lifestyle.

Don't try to be perfect. But be the best influencers to your children.

- **INVEST in experiences, not things.**
- **HUG your children often.**
- **VALUE them – not just their performance, but for who they are.**
- **FOCUS on your children's world - not just your own.**

Who wins when work and family collide?

How do we wrestle the tension of prioritising time between our home life and work life?

Is our occupation our main preoccupation?

How can we be successful in our career without hurting our closest relationships?

If we win the world but lose our family, what have we gained?

Work and family are two significant arenas of our lives.

God's intention is for our work and family life to co-exist peacefully.

- **Role of WORK.**

*Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work** it and take care of it.*

God established a connection between our effort (work) and our provision (wages).

- **Role of FAMILY.**

*Genesis 1:27-28a ...in the image of God He created male and female...then God blessed them and said, "**Be fruitful and multiply...***

Our work is doing (**task**-focussed), our family is loving (**relationship**-focussed).

We **DO** our job; we **LOVE** our family!

This is not a problem that can be solved, rather a tension that needs to be managed!

- **Left HOLDING the Rock.**

When we cheat our families for work, it's like asking our spouse to carry the burden of keeping things together at home in our absence.

We keep promising that things will change. They smile because they love us, holding the rock for as long as possible.

- **The SOUND of Falling Rocks.**

Eventually our family's willingness to carry the load becomes too emotionally exhausting to carry.

On occasions we understand when a loved one must pull back on family time, due to busyness.

But when our families are left to carry a load, they did not sign up to carry - it is just a matter of time before things begin to crumble.

- **Picking up the Pieces**

When the rock drops, we'll try everything to put the pieces back together. But there can be some damage that remains.

Cheating home is translated to our families as **rejection.**

We love our family in our heart, but do we love them in our schedule?

- **Checking the Health of our Family Life.**

Every so often we need to press the pause button to check the health of our family life.

To **prioritise** and **adjust** some things back into **alignment**.

- **Children learn what they OBSERVE.**

- criticism, they learn to be judgemental.
- hostility, they learn to be angry with a temper.
- ridicule, they learn to be shy and withdrawn.
- comparison, they learn to be insecure.
- shame, they learn to feel guilty.
- resentment, they learn to be unforgiving.
- tolerance, they learn to be patient.
- encouragement, they learn confidence.
- praise, they learn to appreciate.
- fairness, they learn justice.
- security, they learn to be content.
- approval, they learn to like themselves.
- acceptance, they learn to find love.

Parents need to recognise and accept their responsibility before God.