

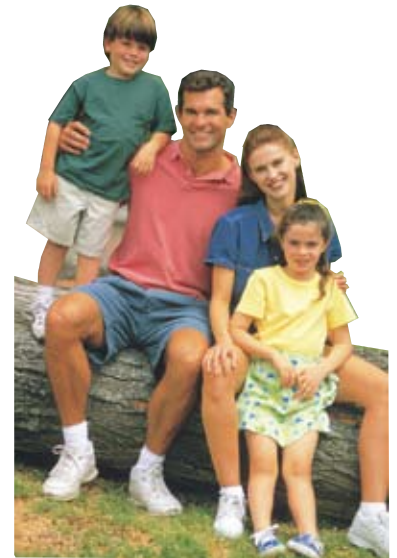


24/7



A Newsletter for the Christian Home

The Signs of (Family) Leadership



There are many people who are quite satisfied in describing the month of February as the month of love. Calendars remind us of the importance of showing our love and care for those close to us in this second month of the year.

But, I would also like to put forward that February is a month for leadership! Growing up, many of us remember two February holidays in recognition of two great leaders in our country: Washington and Lincoln. We got two days off from school! We now have combined those two observances into one day in which all presidential contributions are recognized by one national holiday. This year, as many new leaders take office in January across our country, we will begin to see the first fruits of their leadership at work during the month of February. So, February is not just a month for lovers, but also for leaders!

What about leadership in the home? In the family? Is there such a thing? You bet there is!

Here are a few **S-I-G-Ns** of leadership for your consideration as you carry out parenting responsibilities within your home:

Sacrificing

The parent, as leader in the home who exhibits this quality, is willing to sacrifice and serve his or her children and family members in nearly any way possible to improve the quality of life for individuals, or the family as a whole. Sacrificing puts the needs and concerns of others ahead of one's self.

Inspiring

The parent as leader seeks to bring the aspect of the Christian faith to the daily activities of family life. The spiritual resources of life are put into practice—everything

from the teaching of meal prayers, reading the Bible, having family devotions to faith-related conversations. Faith is lifted up and stirred up in the home.

Guarding

The parent as leader practices an acute awareness for the safety and well-being of all family members, not just for young children—but throughout the life span and even into adulthood. For many parents, this is very instinctual, but in a complex 21st century world, there are concerns and issues that arise on a daily basis that need attention and action to secure the safety and well-being of others in the family.

Nudging

The parent as leader promotes forward-thinking and helps family members to set realistic goals, and supports the efforts to meet such goals. The nudging parent leader maintains balance and recognizes the various levels of potential in each family member.

Do you see these present in your life? Do you desire to grow stronger in some of these areas? We all would hope we could improve our skills in one or more of these attributes and thus become more effective as parents. Is this a complete list of leadership attributes for parents—not by any means! Rather, a short and helpful checklist to consider not just during the month of February, but throughout the entire year.

■ Steve Christopher



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