



HighFlyers Conference

An empowerment platform for students, parents and families



Theme: Re-engage for the future

(Coping with the challenges of the current educational climate while still maintaining high aspirations for the future)



Talk 3

HOW CAN PARENTS AND FAMILIES
SUPPORT STUDENTS FOR HIGH
ASPIRATIONS?

1. How can parents maintain a positive outlook on the future so that they help their children maintain a positive attitude?

Romans
8:28 (KJV)
"And we
know that
all things
work
together
for good to
them that
love God,
to them
who are
the called
according
to His
purpose."

A-By exhibiting faith in God - the only One who can secure a positive future for parent and children. Children who witness their parents walk by faith will likely build faith too and emulate them.

B- Looking for and seeing some good in a gloomy situation (attitude of "it could have been worse")

C-Encourage then that challenges and hurdles and difficult times are part of life and it is an opportunity to build character. The difficult time does not last forever and you learn lessons from it with a smile on your face once the calm has subsided.

D-Having and attitude of gratitude and looking at the good in their lives not the bad or the limitations or the lack

E-By connecting to our spirituality and maintaining our gratitude for all that we have been given. By our tempering our actions with FAITH that whatever we do will yield God's desired result for us.

By being realistic ourselves that we will sometimes stumble and have "down" periods but we know that we can call upon God to help pick us up, dust us down and set us on our way.

F-Parents must be spiritually alert. They must fix their gaze upwards. They must continuously bestir themselves to be and to remain spiritual. They must learn to balance the spiritual and the earthly but, must understand, that the spirit is ordained to lead and the intellect is its tool, to translate spiritual impressions to the physical. Then, the parents would feel less harassed and stressed because things would work better for them.

2. How can parents design the home environment/life to help their children have high aspirations?

Ephesians 6:4
(AMP)

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by showing favouritism or indifference to any of them], but bring them up [tenderly, with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

- A-By encouraging them to become the best version of themselves. Parents need to encourage their children with true life stories of victorious living via family Bible study; filling the home with educative books and prolific reading about the lives of great and righteous men and women; watching documentaries with them; and telling them stories of great men and women.
- B-By helping them to discover their true identity - who they are - in Christ. Children are seed, God's planting to perpetuate life on earth and propagate divine purpose among His people.
- Parents wishing to know God's purpose for each child must seek Him even before conception, knowing that the one who knows God's purpose for him will likely have a heightened sense of value, while focussed on purpose-actualization.
- C-By building their self-esteem, showing them respect, sharing with them the family's vision and being clear about their own part in its achievement - your expectations from them. Parents need also desist from talking down to children. As they watch you exhibit good manners and grace to all particularly the disadvantaged, it'll help them understand human nature and inspires them to great heights
- D-Talk about what they want to do and who they admire and pathways to get there. If they can see how it can happen, then can they see it for themselves. Help them find the pathways and expose them to those who have achieved.
- E-First by always being thankful, filling our homes with joyful sounds (and wonderful smells) and laughter. By daily disciplines of getting up early, tidying the home, setting out to work and putting in the hours in whatever we do. By planning earnestly and setting strong goals and being audacious (when needed) about implementing them. By being humble and not allowing arrogance in especially when we succeed.
- F-Children copy what parents do, not particularly what they say. The parents must themselves be good exemplars. The focus must be the our Lord God and then, imparting EVERYTHING good/noble/lofty/truthful in all things, impressing it on the children that there are always unavoidable consequences for everything - good and evil.

3. What are some unique traits/habits of families of successful and fulfilled students, and how can we imbibe these habits?

1 John 4:7

"Beloved, let us
[unselfishly] love and
seek the best for one
another, for love is from
God; and everyone
who loves [others] is
born of God and knows
God [through
personal
experience]."

A- Integrity. Good Character. Love. Discipline. Compassion. Respect. Accountability. Forgiveness.

By accepting them as gifts from God and expressing love for them by our words and actions.

We need be constant and continuous in turning situations and circumstances into teachable moments for them. And 'lead' by example.

B- Demonstrative Love; No complex; "I can" attitude encouraged; room to air views without cowering; built-in self-esteem nursed.

C-Good communication skills and encouraging one another. Never giving up on endeavours.

D-Talking to the children about successes and failures. Right and wrong, know what their values are. What one defines as success may not be the other's definition.

E- Everyday work ethic; Everyday discipline; Motivation without being overbearing; Relaxation and laughter; Trying not to compare one child/student with another (though this may be hard!)

F-Honesty, truthfulness, industry, compassion, tolerance, discipline. Demonstrate them to the children from a young age in order that it becomes part and parcel of them.

4. What are some traits/habits of families of unhappy / unfulfilled / underperforming students and how we avoid these habits?

James 1:19-20 (AMP)
"Understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Let everyone be quick to hear [be a careful, thoughtful listener], slow to speak [a speaker of carefully chosen words and], slow to anger [patient, reflective, forgiving];
²⁰for the [resentful, deep-seated] anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God [that standard of behaviour which He requires from us].

A- A child who feels rejected is likely to become rebellious expressing either: 1. Feelings of insecurity, resulting in low self-esteem and recoiling from any expression or action that may draw attention to him and test his capability in any endeavour. Or 2. Taking the aggressive route and engaging in reckless activities to prove he is accountable to no one due to deep set anger at not being accepted.

B-Every child needs to grow in the safety and security of a family net, just like the cocoon of a mother's womb. Else he may be exposed, being unprotected by a strong male presence in his life. Feelings of abandonment are not easily discarded; they often show up in adult life as fear of being unlovable. Where any of the above-stated impacts of acceptance is missing, a child may likely suffer emotional and psychological trauma, resulting in discouragement, lack of confidence, and rage. He may even become sexually immoral because of feeling accountable to no one. Godly mentors who prove acceptance of such a child would be saving a lost soul.

C-Sulking; aggressive; abusive; complex. All of this can be overcome by showing understanding, discuss issues and correct with friendship and love!

D-Spoiling children with wealth and favours and carefree about correcting bad behaviour.

E-Lack of confidence, lack of goals, poor example, lack of encouragement, poor attitudes in general but particularly to hard work. Not being tenacious and learning from failure. Taking responsibility and not blaming others, the situation etc...

F-Domestic violence/abuse irresponsible and immature parents. Leave the children out of it. Parents must present a united front and sort each other out behind closed doors.

5. How can we as parents stretch ourselves consistently to be good examples/role models for our children with these current economic challenges?

Ecclesiastes
7:12

"For wisdom
is a defence,
and money is
a defence:
but the
excellency
of
knowledge
is, that
wisdom
giveth life
to them that
have it."

A-By being honest with them about your challenges. Be yourself.

B- Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; be encouraged in the Word and live it out. Be a doer of the good you believe in and the children will follow. Be contented and thankful.

C-Practice what we preach as parents and encourage a culture of savings in good times and prudent management of money in bad times thus cutting your family budget to fit the demands of the times; rather than trying to give so much as to "keep up with the joneses" Focus on necessities. Luxury, occasionally, but in moderation - Finances will go a long way.

D-Talking about our own weaknesses and how we have had to keep fighting, talking about our successes and how we did it, whether large or small examples, starting with basics of life not believing money is all important. Let children see you doing for others. Success is giving others a leg up and not drawing up the bridge.

E- It's important to do 'stuff' together, have fun together, play games together, be consistent, eat together, help others, pray... And it's got more to do with spending time rather than money. X

F-Simplicity. Keep it simple and straightforward.

6. How can we be 'there' for them?

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
(NKJV)

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails."

A- Let them see you as their best friend. Be ready to listen more and not judgemental. Be understanding but firm.

B-Be close to them. Make yourself accessible. Develop a friendship.

C-be prepared to listen and hear things we don't want to hear but be open enough for them to talk to us and bare their souls to us.

D- Listening to them; Even when their ideas and thoughts are different from ours, letting them act on them in little ways to see the actual effect

Showing them love by telling them, hugging them etc; Encouraging them to do things that we enjoy as a way of connecting.

Giving them our time

E-Parents have to be in top form themselves, in order to be able to help the children. Parents ... be good to yourselves. Take proper care of yourselves as well. Regular meditation and exercise. A healthy, balanced diet too. Sensible and decent fashion choices.

F-All the above is all by the grace of God! No parent is proud without knowing God's hand in anything they've achieved. Also, a child that makes mistakes can turn it around. It's not the end of their story.

7. How can we partner with the school to provide the best education for our children's development? (Many parents do not understand the schools' lingo)?

- **The 30-30 PRAYER DEVOTIONAL FOR EDUCATORS**

- *Not to pray is not to discern - not to discern the things that really matter, and the powers that really rule.*

P.T. Forsyth

The author is our facilitator:

Mrs Tolu Adewole

For example, looking at the reduction in after school clubs and groups and the restrictions on travel, parents should readjust expectations, not by lowering standards, but by setting targets that can be measured, achieved and celebrated - alongside the COVID restrictions - to reduce frustration (for both them and their children) and continue to encourage excellence in their children.

8. Many parents have complained about lack of communication from the school no homework, no notes, no resources and they do not know how/who to ask. How can they provide resources to ensure children are making necessary progress?

Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Luke 11:9-10 (NKJV)

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

'Befriend' your child's teacher and the lack of communication will vanish.

9. How can parents help children to understand their unique identity and potentials so that they can build on this to become fulfilled individuals?

Ephesians 6:1-3

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord [that is, accept their guidance and discipline as His representatives], for this is right [for obedience teaches wisdom and self-discipline].

² HONOR [esteem, value as precious] YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER [and be respectful to them]—this is the first commandment with a promise—

³ SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY HAVE A LONG LIFE ON THE EARTH."

Patiently teach
them the way to
go and they will
not depart from
it

10. Note to the young people:

- Why must you still have high aspirations?
- Why must you maintain a positive attitude despite the challenges?

Psalm 139

God thinks you are amazing –
Who do think you are.

By Steve Mawston

SMART GOAL SETTING FRAMEWORK

Smart Goal Setting



R for Realistic can also be R for Relevant

4 Cs of Dahvina

- Change
- Challenge
- Communication
- Consistency

