**ME** in the HO**ME**  -**“Arrows in the hand**”

2/19/17 am susan allen

Ps 127:3-5 NKJV**3** Behold, children *are* a **heritage from the Lord**,The fruit of the womb *is* a **reward**. **4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior**,So *are* the children of one's youth. **5 Happy** *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;They shall not be ashamed,

But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Eph 6:1-4 AMP**1** CHILDREN, OBEY your parents in the Lord [as His representatives], for this is just and right. **2** Honor (esteem and value as precious) your father and your mother — this is the first commandment with a promise —  [Ex 20:12.] **3** That all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth. **4** Fathers, do not irritate *and* provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training *and* discipline and the counsel *and* admonition of the Lord.

Prov 22:6 AMP**6** Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Deut 6:4-7 AMP**4** Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord]. **5** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might. **6** And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds *and* hearts; [then] **7** You shall whet *and* sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, *and* teach *and* impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Ps 112:1-2 NLTPraise the Lord! How joyful are those who fear the Lord and delight in obeying his commands.**2 Their children will be successful everywhere;** **an entire generation of godly people will be blessed**.

1 Tim 4:12 NIV**12** Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Acts 2:16-18 KJV  (Joel 2:28)**16** But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

**17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:**18** And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Resources: Love & Respect in the Family by Dr Emerson Eggerichs, Tim Brooks parenting cd set in the lending library, Joe McGee  joemcgeeministries.com

IF I COULD GO BACK…

When your children are driving, graduating or leaving the nest, you look back and think of what you did right and what you did wrong. Sometimes it’s not even about right & wrong it’s just “what I would do different”. So I decided to give you my thoughts. Honest thoughts, of what I had done wrong and what I would do again. I hope that it helps you on this wonderful-but not “bump” free journey. I will be writing these as I think of them so they may be VERY random and in no certain order. Amendments and add ons are for sure.

* I WOULD have a family portrait done every year. Not formal ones-but us living life –like at the lake or with the dogs etc…
* I WOULD keep my finances free. When my kids were smaller I kept my finances very free. We lived in a smaller house and could do just about anything we wanted. As they got older-I felt the need for them to have bigger rooms etc… Bigger house= Bigger money----brilliant I know!! If I had it to do over again, I would go somewhere between what I *wanted* and what we were living in. The older they get-the more money it takes to raise them.
* I WOULD let them spend as much time with Grandparents as they wanted to. (if the grandparents are a good influence, of course) I did this- and I have absolutely NO regrets. They impart wisdom, love and nurturing in a way that not even we as parents can do. We must be secure in knowing that no one can take our place as parents-but Grandparents have a very special part that we can’t supply either. I see the fruits of this now. My kids are grown-they spend a lot of their extra time with Grandparents. Where would I rather them be!?
* I WOULD teach manners from the get-go. I did a fair job of this when they were small, but let up when they got about school age. We had been thru divorce and were in survival mode but I really regret not sticking to this one. All the usual ‘Yes Sirs” and “yes Mams” but also ‘’speak when spoken to” etc…
* I WOULD praise them for character more than achievement. For instance- their behavior, manners and good work ethics at school more than their grades. Put a note on the fridge about trying hard or helping the teacher *along with* the grade award. Grades get tougher to maintain especially if they are in advanced classes and if they think that the “A” is what makes you proud or happy they will be too hard on themselves. In sports, don’t make a bigger deal of the points etc…than you do ‘how” they handled the bad call.
* I WOULD start them off eating how I wish I had learned to eat. The way we TRY to eat now. My friend was raised this way and has never left it. We should not feel guilty for not loading our kids up with cookies and sugar. Food is not a reward –it is fuel.
* I WOULD make exercise a regular family event. I think I did a pretty good job at this one. Playtime should involve exercise and is a great way to be together and be healthy. Go on nature walks around the neighborhood, collecting leaves and acorns etc… Go home and glue them on paper. My kids and I use to paint anything…nuts, leaves … we even would pick up turtles and put race numbers & names (like “speedy”) on them with fingernail polish. Go to a fruit farm to pick fruit. Go to the lake to feed geese and look for shells. I think these are some of our greatest memories.
* I WOULD not allow my children to mistreat each other. I really did a sorry job here! They did great until Chelsy got about 8. Then they can get on each other’s nerves and be competitive. Make sure that they are on the same team even when they are competing—ex: If they have a race or play a game-teach them to be proud of each other- one must lose and one must win but they need to be able to say “good job”. Teach them to be each other’s biggest fans. Have them hold hands during prayer-this keeps affection btw them and always-even when “big” have them say “goodnight”. Have them get and wrap their own gifts to their sibling—from their heart. Have them write their own card. This teaches them to express their feelings openly. Never allow one child to speak inappropriately to or about the others.
* I WOULD take more family trips-even if small ones.
* I WOULD always have pets. It teaches responsibility, obedience and affection.
* I WOULD limit their extra curricular activities. It is very easy to overload-this stresses you-whether it does them or not. As Dorothy of Oz would say “there’s no place like home”. AMEN
* I WOULD ask that family members only buy one/two toys and put the money that they would spend into savings. You would not believe what this will do in 16 years. PLEASE listen to me on this one. Before long you will have enough to start his/her CD or mutual fund. He/she could pay cash for their first house or business!
* I WOULD teach them to tithe as a child. I did this and I was thankful when my kids would receive a tax letter at the end of the year even though they didn’t pay taxes when young. When they get birthday money etc… let them fill out a tithe envelope when they are big enough –make sure you put their name on it (that’s a BIG deal). Then at the end of the year they can see how much they gave to support the gospel. Start now and watch Mal 3:10 work for your infant-there is NO age requirement for the law to work.
* I WOULD have them do more chores to help. Learning to “help” is crucial to their future. How can we help Daddy\Mommy today?” This teaches him to “look” for ways to help not just wait to be told to do something. A “thank you” and a very happy Dad\Mom is payment enough.
* I WOULD talk about EVERYTHING. Another thing I do not regret. My kids can talk to me. You have to note when & where they open up best. When Wade was small and our lives were upside down- we would walk out to Pop’s pond with our poles and just cast for the longest. Finally he would start talking. For Chelsy it was when we would be in the car. When they got to be teenagers-it was at night---VERY LATE at night. Now I understand the Prov 31 woman burning her candle all night! I am up when they get home at night. If they head straight for their room—and stay there- something’s wrong. Fix them a snack and lure them out. Don’t ask questions—just wait. (Patiently)
* I WOULD never over react. OK –I have done this!!-but I’m learning. Over reacting makes them not want to tell you anything. Take a deep breath and a couple of minutes if necessary before you open your mouth- (this may require breathing thru your nose!!)
* I WOULD never jump to conclusions. Ask for the whole story.
* I WOULD show them that they have a unique and special part of this world—but they are not THE world. I made my home too “child-centered”. Everything revolved around them. This is unfair to them—it is NOT reality for their future. Life is not *about* them- they are to be *about* life.
* I WOULD not say anything hurtful about anyone. Sometimes we must say things about someone but it does not have to be mean.
* I WOULD have them more involved in charity. Serving makes them thankful and helps them with compassion. It also keeps down pride and selfishness. Their trips to Mexico really opened their eyes-I just wish we had done some things earlier. (Main street mission, animal shelter etc…)
* I WOULD expose them to as many good things as possible. Wade and Chelsy feel they can do anything because they have done about everything. Driving tractors, using power tools, painting, snorkeling, hunting, repelling, cheerleading, sports, summer camps, traveling abroad…. anything you do and some of what you don’t. Your kids should know how to do everything you do PLUS what the Grandparents know PLUS what your family friends know PLUS what their own interest are. This builds great confidence and independence. Is it hard to watch them fly off on a jet without you, repel off a cliff or go under water with a spear gun…you betcha! But it sure helps you & them when they drive off at 16 or leave for college.
* I WOULD say “yes” as much as I could but mean “no” when I said “no”. Regayla Liechty said that once. Say *yes* as much as possible but when you say ***no*** let your no mean ***no***.
* I WOULD enjoy each stage more. Seems like we are always looking for the next big event. When they craw, when they walk, when they start school, when they drive…………………. enjoy the day.
* I WOULD let them be accountable for their decisions. If my kid does something wrong-I will back up that authority figure. Don’t ever be a “not my kid” parent. Though we may want them to be- our children are not perfect and we need to let them know that we know that and love them anyway.
* I WOULD be a better *listener* instead of a *fixer*. They need to learn to do their own fixing. We are simply guides. This is a tough one for me.
* I WOULD take better care of myself. We feel that taking time is selfish-not so. Sometimes the best way to take care of our kids is to take care of ourselves. This means your marriage and personal time---“if mommy ain’t happy—ain’t no body happy” is truer than I care to admit.
* I WOULD pick my battles and not stress so much.
* I WOULD do my best and trust God with the rest. I have in recent years had to fight fear…they are not always in your sight anymore and there are many temptations and dangers. You just have to speak the Word, rely on your covenant and what you have done right as a parent and thank God for His grace on the parenting you’ve done wrong and PRAY! They do have a will but God will give you insight and wisdom and strength to deal with any and ALL circumstances. NO FEAR.
* I would Keep praise music going in your home-it sets an atmosphere. Home is their safe place, peace place & loved place. Your house is the cool house, the hang-out-you want their friends there! One of the best things we ever did was to have a TV room with cool round chairs and big screen tv, ping pong table etc…

* I WOULD Teach by asking questions not by giving orders. There is no Rebellion when the answer is their own. Instead of “you cant go” try “why do you think you should go—why do you think you shouldn’t go”. “Why would I not want you to go?” When they answer their own questions---they cant rebel. Jesus taught this way and dealt with the Pharisees this way—It worked! We want our kids to learn **how** to make good decisions.
* When you doubt your parenting, and you will, ask yourself

these questions:

Do my kids know I love them?

Do they know God loves them?

Do they know where to find the answers to life’s questions?

If we successfully teach them this, they have the foundation to overcome anything else…so relax a little and

Enjoy the journey—I WOULD, IF I COULD GO BACK.

Susan Allen