

Emra Expressions

Say Yes!

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She is asking for help, how else can we respond but to say yes!

Her son, Daniel, now seven years old, is out of control. He is receiving counseling at school because of bad behavior. They have been threatened with eviction because of bad behavior. The police have been called multiple times by neighbors because of out of control behavior.

Now Daniel is starting to take his anger out on his 6 month old sister.

His mother, Patty, is asking for help, not from me, but from Debbie, the worker in an after school program with which we work. They are not a S.A.Y. Yes! Center but they do everything a S.A.Y. Yes! Center does - they just didn't want the name.

So I am going to meet with Debbie tomorrow and provide her some tools so she can help the mom.

Debbie wants me to come and talk to Patty and I could do that, but Debbie is the best choice for helping Patty deal with Daniel.

Debbie is there. She sees Daniel every day he is in the After School Program. Debbie can talk to Patty, can follow up and see how life is going, can verify that Patty is doing what needs to be done.

Tomorrow I will be sharing with Debbie my book, *Cornerstones and Core Needs of Growing Kids* (available at LifeIsFullOfChoices.com) that explain the tools we use that help parents raise "Responsible Kids". I will also be giving her the Venn Diagram we use to illustrate how kids react when we don't provide what they need. Debbie will be able to use that diagram in order to help Patty look at Daniels behavior and find out what he is missing in her parenting.

Debbie will have the tools, but the choice will be Patty's. She needs to be consistent with her affection. She needs to set up boundaries and follow through (follow through is consistency) with discipline.

This will not be easy. Is she willing to do this for Daniel? Will she say yes to shape his future by changing her actions now?

Pray for Debbie and me as we work with Patty.

In His grip,

John
for John and Sheryl Emra
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Answered Prayer

Thank you for praying for our summer trip. We have delayed our leaving for a month in order to be ready – but that is working out to be a good thing.

Thank you for praying for the children who received Easter Bags. We will report as we hear from the individual Churches.

Prayer Requests

Pray for our health. We have been experiencing sinus infections and colds.

Pray for the churches we have connected with for the summer trip.

Pray our energy as we work on the 5th wheel and the truck getting them ready for this summer excursion.

The Rest Of The Story

The one paragraph where I was talking about the tools Debbie would have, I listed the four core needs. Those are affection, boundaries, consistency and discipline.

We all have these four needs, but in children these needs determine every choice they make.

These four core needs become the lens through which people of all ages see the world and is the baseline that establishes how everyone interacts with their past, their present and their future..

The problem is that when these needs are not met at a young age, a person stops maturing and spends all his or her timed energy trying to meet what he or she feels is an unmet need. This happens slowly over time but the end result is a person who's outlook on life is totally skewed.

Political divisiveness, racial tension, class warfare, news bias, political correctness, abortion, gun violence, drug use, homelessness, poverty, etc, etc, etc.

All of these ills of society, and many more, are the result of unmet childhood needs and the resulting damage done to our lives and the lives of those around us.

The more I hold on to the hurt, the deeper the damage. And the deeper the damage the more I feel the hurt. Eventually the hurt is all I have with which to comfort myself.

It sounds like a never ending cycle - but it is not a hopeless situation.

For those who have been living a life crippled with unmet needs there is an answer.

I can have my needs met, heal the hurt and live a normal life.

My past can be healed by Jesus.

It probably is too easy, but just like the story of Naaman where the servants said, "... if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn't you have done it? So why not this simple 'wash and be clean'?"

Here is the answer. We need to let go of our hurt and be healed.

The problems of the world distilled into one life. The solution for the hurts within one life is the cure for the whole world.

To continue sharing this truth with needy families Sheryl and I need your help. Please pray for us as we live and work in Dallas. Use the enclosed response card to send a donation of any amount. Either way your help is appreciated.