



Dear Friend:

Greetings from Focus on the Family! Summertime is finally here — and after a winter of ongoing restrictions, I pray you and your family have the opportunity to get outside, soak up some sunshine, and make lasting memories.

Now that both my sons have graduated and Jean and I are processing the reality of an empty nest, it's even more clear how precious the years of camping trips and other summer fun are. The years when our children are in our care and under our constant guidance and influence are special, but they can also be a challenge.

That's why at Focus, we are committed to providing families with practical guidance and quality resources to help parents like you navigate those developmental years.

Parenting resources

We regularly release new titles geared toward equipping moms and dads for their parenting journey, such as our own Dr. Danny Huerta's new book, *Seven Traits of Effective Parenting*. Danny is Focus on the Family's Vice President of Parenting and Youth, and his book teaches parents about the skills and characteristics that are most important as they strive to raise caring, responsible, and godly children. I'm excited to share Danny's wisdom and in-the-trenches advice with mothers and fathers around the world.

We also maintain a well-stocked online store of books, broadcast CDs and digital downloads, videos, and other resources specifically created for parents. From practical advice on particular topics to inspiring biographies to *Focus on the Family Radio Theatre* productions, there's truly something for every family.

In addition, our daily broadcast offers practical, Scriptural advice for parents during all stages of life. And our *Plugged In* team will help you navigate today's culture through reviews of movies, music, games, books and more, as well as a weekly podcast that offers insight into current media choices and culture-related topics.

The Focus on the Family App allows you to access critical parenting resources anywhere and anytime. Get the tools you need wherever life takes you. When you download the free app, you have access to the daily broadcast, marriage and parenting podcasts, *Adventures in Odyssey* audio dramas and podcasts, articles, devotions, assessments and many more resources.

For the kids

Meanwhile, our ministry makes available a broad array of materials tailored specifically for children. Our *Adventures in Odyssey* radio series, for example, is an award-winning audio drama targeting kids

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ages 8–12 – although we often hear from adults who have been listening for decades and continue tuning in faithfully!

Adventures in Odyssey audio dramas offer family-friendly, faith-building lessons on a wide variety of topics and timely issues, and it's a great way to while away some hours during a summer road trip. In addition to CD albums, online episodes at adventuresinodyssey.com, and programs that air directly on local radio stations, our Adventures in Odyssey Club includes unlimited streaming, daily devotions, a *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* magazine subscription, exclusive members-only episodes, and much more! (More information is available at oaclub.org.)

In addition, *Brio* magazine provides great information and a biblical worldview for teen girls.

Testimonies from grateful parents

Thankfully, we continue hearing from those who tell us that their own parenting has been helped and enhanced significantly by our efforts. May I share with you just a few of the testimonials that have reached us in recent weeks?

I love the Focus on the Family App! I am a parent of four and there is so much valuable information on your episodes. They help in navigating the challenges as a parent in today's world and in understanding what my kids are facing. Your programs help me adapt to their world as a father — and to their constantly changing moods and personalities. Previously I listened mostly to podcasts, because it was easier to play many episodes back-to-back in the background during work, but I very quickly ran out of podcasts to listen to, so I downloaded the app and it opened up so much more material to me. Thanks so much for all you guys do at Focus on the Family! It has truly made a difference in our home and in our relationships!

—Andrew, South Carolina

I just wanted to say thank you for all the wonderful broadcasts you offer! I appreciate the variety of topics you cover. One of my goals for this year is to listen to more of them! I like to listen when I go for a walk. It helps pass the time and benefits me both physically and mentally. I have two teen boys, 13 and 16, and my husband and I are having a hard time, both in teaching them to become responsible, respectful adults and in starting to let go and give them more freedom to make their own choices (and mistakes!). This world offers them so many lures and temptations and I am afraid to let them go. Your programs give me hope and help me to know I'm not the only parent struggling with these issues ... Again, thank you, Focus, for all you are doing. I appreciate you and the help and hope you have given me and many others!

—Karyn, Colorado

This is a praise report: I want to thank God for you all. As part of a promotion from Focus, I chose the gift of "The Ties that Bind" CD album from the Adventures in Odyssey series. I am married with one son. He is 12 years old and currently lives in a home of division. I am a follower of Jesus Christ, but my husband has not yet followed Him. For a little history about us, although our son is 12, we have only been married seven years. I was saved and began my

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walk nine years ago, a couple of years before we got married. During these years, God has taught me so much about His design, the importance of the family unit, and how that reflects Him. It has not been easy, as we did not grow up with the model of a godly family. I am very thankful for the lessons that I have learned. Things have been complicated at home and God's design for family has not often been respected or valued. I take our son to church and we often discuss God's Word. I try to share everything I am learning. My husband has tended to go against what I try to model for our son. This causes emotional frustration and discord tends to happen. I fall short daily, but am thankful God always picks me back up to try again. My son is many times divided in his understanding and I am reminded of the "house built on sand" that Jesus referenced in Matthew 7:27. Now that you know this, I hope you can understand how thankful I am for that Adventures in Odyssey gift. We have never listened to that series before. I probably would have never purchased it. My son and I listen to an episode almost daily now! We listen in the car and he even responds to the discussion questions! I am learning so much also. We are connecting! I am crying thinking about it because for that half an hour or so of listening, we are at peace and I feel God's peace. We may be in the process of learning, and we may not be displaying a perfect model of God's design for family right now, but our son is able to understand a healthy example through this series.

—Jennifer, Kansas

When I saw the invitation to say what Focus has meant to me, I thought "There is no way I can fit it on that little piece of paper!" So I will shorten it up! I grew up in a pretty dysfunctional home, and when I was 14, my mother ended her life. My dad had a rough upbringing and had no idea how to be a father. I remember praying for God to teach me how to be a mother when my daughter was born because I knew I had no idea. I honestly believe Focus on the Family helped teach me what "normal" parenting was. I was glued to every broadcast and every book. I know without a doubt that God used Focus on the Family to parent me so I would know how to parent my kids. My kids are now in their thirties. I will be forever grateful for Focus on the Family. You have been there for me during hard times, too, and sent me books when my marriage was crumbling. You provided a personal counselor at a moment of difficulty with my father. I am forever thankful for the ministry — it has literally affected millions of lives.

—Nina, California

As encouraging as it is for our team to track the numbers and statistics related to those our ministry has impacted, there's nothing quite as exciting as hearing directly from someone who describes how Focus has had a life-changing influence on them. Marriages saved, destructive patterns changed, and families transformed — this is why we exist and why our dedicated staff members show up day after day to labor on behalf of families across the globe.

Remember that we're here for *you*, too. If you're facing difficulty or simply need suggestions for a common parenting issue, please remember that Focus stands ready to assist you. Our website has a wealth of helpful content, and our team of caring counselors offers one-time phone consults for those dealing with complex problems or crises. They can be reached by calling 1-855-771-HELP (4357) weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Mountain Time).

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These resources are only possible through the faithful support of friends like you. As a nonprofit ministry, we need friends like you to help stand in the gap for families. Please give today to empower parents to raise children who are bold in their faith. Through your generosity, you'll make all the resources and programs of Focus on the Family available for your family and so many others. Together we can sow into the eternities of struggling families.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read about Focus' continued outreach efforts. May God grant you and your loved ones a safe, healthy, and memorable summer! Abundant blessings to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in teal ink, reading "JDaly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jim Daly
President

P.S. After the challenges of the past year, parents need biblical resources more than ever. Will you help equip them and strengthen families with your gift today? I would also appreciate your prayers that the Lord will sustain Focus' various initiatives in a way that touches and changes many lives.



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY® BROADCAST

The broadcast schedule is subject to change. Listen to the Focus on the Family® Broadcast on your local radio station, your mobile device or online. If you've missed one of these broadcasts, listen online at FocusOnTheFamily.com/Broadcast.

You can also hear us with the all-new, enhanced **FOCUS ON THE FAMILY APP** found at the App Store and Google Play.

Feature Guest:

Dr. Daniel P. Huerta



Seven Traits of Effective Parenting

Parenting isn't always easy, but there is hope! Dr. Daniel P. Huerta, Focus on the Family's Vice President of Parenting, offers practical help in his book, *Seven Traits of Effective Parenting*. Based on exhaustive research, Huerta shares seven powerful character traits designed to help parents grow and thrive as they tackle parenting.

Get your copy for a ministry gift of any amount today.



Get your copy of *Seven Traits of Effective Parenting* with your ministry gift of any amount today. Use the enclosed reply device to make your request or go to FocusOnTheFamily.com/7Traits21.

A donation receipt will be issued for funds received in excess of the fair market value of the promotional product. The Internal Revenue Service does not allow a charitable deduction for the value of goods received. This value will be provided on your receipt. Promotional items will be fulfilled via our distribution alliance with Ingram.

Broadcasts are brought to you by our partners — you!

JUNE 2021

DATE TITLE

GUEST

6/2	Giving Your Child a Love for Adventure	Mrs. Greta Eskridge
6/3	Finding Peace in Your Everyday Life	Mrs. Kay Wyma
6/4	The Importance of Leaving and Cleaving	Pastor Ted Cunningham
6/7	Helping Your Kids Identify Their Strengths	Mr. Brandon and Mrs. Analyn Miller
6/8	An Abortion Survivor's Story of Forgiveness	Mrs. Claire Culwell and Mrs. Tonya Glasby
6/9	Discovering the Secrets of a Happy Marriage	Mrs. Fawn Weaver
6/10-6/11	Finding Freedom from Addiction I & II	Dr. Gregory Jantz
6/14-6/15	Loving Your Spouse Through Seasons of Marriage I & II	Mrs. Debra Fileta
6/16	Sharing Your Faith with Grace and Purpose	Mr. Greg Koukl
6/17-6/18	Encouraging Dads to Be Heroes I & II	Dr. Meg Meeker
6/21-6/22	The Timeless Truth of Christ	Mrs. Ellie Lofaro
6/23	Are Your Children Your Mission Field	Mrs. Shontell Brewer
6/24-6/25	Fighting for Your Marriage No Matter What I & II	Mr. Matt and Mrs. Sarah Hammitt
6/28	Nurturing a Love for the Bible in Your Kids	Mrs. Danika Cooley
6/29-6/30	Twenty-Five Years and Still in Love I & II	Mr. Bob Kraning (deceased)

JULY 2021

DATE TITLE

GUEST

7/1	Engaging Others with Love, Kindness, and Service	Mrs. Karen Ehman
7/2	Restoring Peace in a Chaotic Culture	Dr. Os Guinness
7/5	Taking Steps to Live Out Your Dreams	Mrs. Kathi Lipp
7/6-7/7	Making Virtues a Daily Part of Your Family Life I & II	Mrs. Courtney DeFeo
7/8	Experiencing God's Healing Hand	Pastor Duane Miller
7/9	The Spiritual Battle for Your Marriage	Dr. Tim and Mrs. Noreen Muehlhoff
7/12	TBA	
7/13-7/14	Hope for Every Marriage I & II	Mr. Jeff and Mrs. Cheryl Scruggs
7/15	Effective Habits to Embrace in Parenting	Dr. Randy Schroeder
7/16	How a Former Abortion Doctor Became Pro-Life	Dr. Patti Giebink
7/19	Fighting for Your Daughter's Heart	Mrs. Tiffany Lee
7/20	Important Conversations to Have with Your Son	Mr. Steve Graves
7/21	Reconciling Faith and Science in a Medical Crisis	Dr. Lee Warren
7/22	Better Ways to Communicate with Your Spouse	Pastor Rob and Mrs. Gina Flood
7/23	Overcoming Adversity Through Faith and Sports	Mrs. Tamika Catchings-Smith
7/26	Improving Yourself, Improve Your Relationship	Dr. Les and Dr. Leslie Parrott
7/27-7/28	Appreciating God's Design for the Human Body	Mr. Philip Yancey
7/29	Why Praying for Yourself is Essential	Mrs. Jodie Berndt
7/30	Leaving a Legacy of Love	Mr. Bill Butterworth

* The broadcast schedule is subject to change.

Parenting Corner with Dr. Daniel P. Huerta

Build up children who are 'contributors'.

Dr. Daniel P. Huerta is Focus on the Family's Vice President of the Parenting and Youth department.



God calls each of us to be contributors within His kingdom and in the lives of others. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others." That is unnatural and difficult, yet deeply loving and trustworthy. Teaching our kids to be contributors will take grace and patience.

There are some things you can do to help your child or grandchild develop a contributor mindset:

Be Humble

Humility is a foundational character trait for all relationships. If you model humility for your kids, chances are, they will behave similarly. Humility begins through the way we listen and think about others.

Develop Empathy

Learning empathy early in life leads to more significant connections and deeper relationships later in life. Do you take time to try to genuinely understand the emotions of your child or grandchild? A child learns empathy through how

you treat and interact with him or her, as well as the rest of God's creation.

Be a Noticer and Builder

Teach your kids to notice their own motives, intentions, and their thought bubbles. Read Psalm 139:23-24. Also, help them see the worth and value of other people and ways to build in others through their genuinely encouraging words. Jesus was a noticer of the broken and unloved. I recommend reading through the Gospels with the lens of seeing Jesus as noticer and builder.

See Work as a Way to Love Others

At its best, work is love in action. Use work as an opportunity to teach kids about responsibility, service, and perseverance. Kids can learn to see chores as a practical way to love and serve others.

Be Patient

Being patient with the kids in your life and circumstances in general will model this trait for your children. People feel loved when people are patient with them, imperfections and all.



Daly Focus

By Jim Daly, President

Lead the way, Dad!

As Father's Day approaches, I want to acknowledge that there is a lot of pressure on men and fathers to get it right. If you are a father or a grandfather, or if you want to be a father someday, let me encourage you today.

You have a big responsibility, but also an exciting opportunity. When a father comes to Christ, 93 percent of the family will follow!

When the dad makes a decision in leadership, it changes the way a family operates. That's quite a telling picture of what God intended.

Maybe you grew up without a strong example of fatherhood. I understand. My dad was an alcoholic and I never really knew what to expect. As a result, I didn't really know how to be a good dad.

Here's what I've learned. God can fill you with what it takes to be a father and lead your family. Whenever I've asked God for help, he's never failed me.

None of us are perfect. Look to Scripture and ask God to help you give your children what they need most — love. That's what our Heavenly Father did. When we fail, he reaches down and picks us up.

As a friend of Focus, you are also helping fathers by providing resources based in Scripture that encourage and guide fathers as they lead their families.

Jim

LIFE UPDATE

The LIFE UPDATE column features testimonies and the latest news on how your support is rescuing babies from abortion and saving moms from the pain and regret of abortion.

Why I support Option Ultrasound . . .

Cheri was a teen when she found out she was pregnant. Her parents quickly took her out of state for an abortion.

"Even though I was five months pregnant, the adults reassured me that I was not carrying a baby, but rather a *clump of cells*," she remembers. "I remember much about the day that they took my baby from me. These memories have haunted me all the rest of my life."

At 60 years old today, Cheri says it still pains her.

Cheri supports Focus on the Family's efforts to reveal life because she says it would have changed her life . . . and saved her baby.

"I believe that showing pictures of pre-born children to society is the only way people will be able to actually see what they are contemplating."

Thank you for joining Cheri to help mothers see life clearly. Since the beginning of the *Option Ultrasound* program in 2004, the number of babies saved is estimated to be more than 470,000.