Fardale Trinity Church Baby Dedication Sermon Pastor Joe Talone Dec. 28, 2014

5 Point Plan for Parents

1. Love

- A. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. (Luke 10:27, NIV)
- B. Love and respect your spouse in such a way that she feels loved and he feels respected. (Ephesians 5:23-28 and 33)
- C. Love your kids in such a way that they feel loved. (1 Cor. 13:4-8, NIV)
- Love each other and your children responsively, according to <u>their</u> needs. (Luke 7:13)
- E. Love them intelligently, through the seasons and <u>stages</u> of life. (1 Peter 3:7, NIV)

2. Lead

- A. Lead your family toward the Lord and His ways. (Deut. 6:5-9)
- B. Lead them <u>authentically</u>. (Prov. 23:26)
- C. Lead them intentionally, not casually. (Deut. 11:15-20)
- D. Lead them strategically with God's standards. (1 Thes. 2:11, Eph. 6:4)
- E. Lead them lovingly with discipline. (Eph. 6:1)

3. Provide

- A. Provide for your children physically. (1 Tim. 5:8)
- B. Provide for them <u>spiritually</u>. (Joshua 24:15)
- C. Provide for them relationally / socially. (Provide wholesome friends.)
- D. Provide for them emotionally. (compassion, hugs, understanding)
- E. Provide for them intellectually.

4. Protect

A. Protect your marriage.

"Your address is the house in which you raise your children." – JPT3

- B. Protect your children's spiritual health.
- C. Protect their <u>moral</u> health. (Discuss and enforce standards.) (See Book of Proverbs)
- D. Protect their <u>relational</u> / social health. (Know their friends)
- E. Protect financial health. (Enough, but not greed, gluttony and hoarding) (Luke 12:15, 21)

5. Serve

- A. Serve each other and your children joyfully.
- B. Serve each other and your children sacrificially.
- C. Serve each other and your children consistently.
- D. Serve each other and your children daily.
- E. Serve each other and your children humbly. (Philippians 2:3-8)

"Guard against pride, the destroyer of love.
Guard against selfishness, the destroyer of contentment." – JPT3

Message

Dedicated parents love, lead, provide, protect, and serve their children spiritually, physically, relationally, emotionally and financially.

Action Points:

- It's not easy, but strive to do it well in every area.
- You can't be perfect, but you can be authentic and consistent.
- Start somewhere. Start this week, today.
 Pick and area, pray about it, and get working on it.