**For Teachers**

**of the**

**Spiritual Plan for Children:**

**Parenting Handbook**

**Instructions and Details for a**

**Weekend Seminar**

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER**

We have prepared this set of lesson plans to allow for teaching this these parenting lessons at a two hour session on Friday night and a four hour session on Saturday morning, 8:30 to 12:30. Thus someone wishing to teach the material in the Handbook in a seminar format will have guidance in how to do it.

The overall goal for these lessons is that parents will prepare an individual plan for the spiritual development of each child in the family according to the strategy laid out in the Handbook. The seminar will focus on helping the parent prepare this spiritual plan for one child with the hope that with that one prepared, the parent will later prepare plans for other children.

Each lesson plan for the teacher starts with a list of objectives which the teacher should study first. The goal is to see that each of the parents in the class will reach those objectives as a result of that particular session. The teacher’s having these objectives in mind is a vital element in the success of the lesson series. Also for the teacher is a list of specific things to prepare or have ready for the class. Included in these are PowerPoint slides and worksheets for the first six lessons, those with the most informational content. These are available at [www.mrcc.org/spfc](http://www.mrcc.org/spfc).

Then there is a statement that summarizes the heart of the message for this class period. These three items are all background information for the teacher. Following that is the actual lesson plan for teaching the class meeting. First there are some suggestions about introducing the class. Some of these are operational matters like checking the roll and having a prayer. But beyond that are suggestions about introducing the class in an interesting way.

The lesson plan for teaching the content of the lesson sometimes starts with a passage of Scripture. There are so many good passages which relate to parenting and starting with these Scriptures does two things: first it impresses on the parents how passages in the Bible relate to parenting and second, the passages give some very important insights from the Lord for parents about training their children.

The content portion of the plan also often provides information from various sources to help in teaching the class and gives questions to ask the class to provide the opportunity for discussion. In this shortened format there will not be much time for discussion but there should at least be some opportunity for some questions and answers

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As you will note, the Friday night session is primarily for instruction while the Saturday morning session is primarily for the students to develop their plans. Since you will not have time to explain everything fully in the class time, emphasize the reading assignments. We even suggest that you refer the students in advance to the Handbook which is posted at [www.mrcc.org/spfc](http://www.mrcc.org/spfc). Any reading they can do before the Friday night session will be useful.

At the first session on Friday night, you can provide a printed copy of the Handbook in a one-inch, three-ring notebook to each family unit. Students can also put in the back of this notebook the worksheets and other handouts used in the class. The students should also be given a second three-ring binder in which to place each element of their plan as they develop it. We recommend dividers for the plan book that match the four elements we will study: Vision and Motto, Personal Letter, Treasured Memories, and Objectives. We recommend that for this binder you provide divider sheets which allow you to write those titles on the tabs. If you cannot do that, then include a sheet prior to the divider which announces the new section in large letters. When the Title Page is done, it should be slipped in the front cover of the notebook. You may or may not ask class members to pay $10 or so for the cost of the notebooks and the printing required for class materials.

With the information in the Handbook and Lesson Plans, the teacher does not have to be expert in parenting to guide the class through the program. The most important thing the teacher can do is to lead parents to develop the sections of the plan so as many parents as possible will actually make good progress on a spiritual plan for a child.

One of the key elements in motivating people is praise. Be sure to praise members of the class for their progress, even if they are running behind the proposed schedule. It is amazing how not only children but even adults respond to praise. So tell as many as possible that they are doing well, making progress, or having a good idea. Your goal as the leader of the class is to get parents to do the best possible job of parenting.

The authors of this program have prayed often that God will use this study to help parents to accept the responsibility of training their children and to use it as a guide for how they carry out that responsibility. You, as the teacher of the class, have a lot to do with how well these materials will achieve that aim.