



∞ This Issue ∞

- ◆ Loving Eyes
- ◆ New Classes
- ◆ Key Principle
- ◆ Teen Challenge Q&A
- ◆ Churches running GFI Programs in July
- ◆ A Family Activity
- ◆ You said "very good."
- ◆ The Jacksons

Singapore Newsletter

Dear GFI Family

July has arrived and we are starting on our second half of 2006 already! June was a very busy month for GFI Singapore as we have moved to a new and better location to serve you better. We now have a GFI store that you can visit

This month we introduce the Jackson family who were the voice behind the theme song for Adolescent Way. We also revisit last month's article "You said Very Good". Hope the elaboration would bring some new light to your future conversation with your child.

Many new classes are also starting this month. Have you registered? Hope to see you in class. Have fun.

Dorcas Li

Infant Way Course Toddler Way Course

7 Sep — 12 Sep 2006
Every Wed 7.30—9.30pm
FCBC Church Office
#04-01 technopark@chai chee

GFI National Leadership & Alumni Conference

Plano, Texas, USA
July 13-15, 2006
www.gfi.org

Virtuous Way Course Chinese (GKGW)

30 Jun — 4 Sep 2006
Every Fri 7.30—9.30pm
FCBC Church Office
#04-01 technopark@chai chee

Virtuous Way Course (GKGW) Module 3

3 Jul—4 Sep 2006
Every Monday 7.30—9.30pm
IRAS Building (opp Novena MRT)

Registration
www.gfi-singapore.org

Loving Eyes

When I was a young girl
It was hard for mom and dad
To see my needs for time and love
With the busy life they had
I felt some heartache through the years
But now I realize,
The past can be forgiven
When I see them through Your eyes!

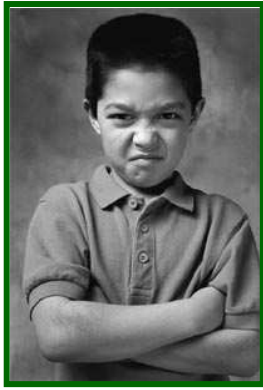
Loving eyes, loving eyes,
Lord, let me see the ones I love
Through Your loving eyes!
Loving eyes, loving eyes,
Lord, let me see the ones I love
Through Your loving eyes!

Lord You gave me children
And only You know why
Sometimes they make me smile and laugh
And other times I cry
O God, please give me wisdom
For the challenge of their lives
And I'll be a better parent
When I see them through Your eyes!

Bruce & Brenda Jackson

**Key Principle:
Chapter 5
Your Child's Conscience**

Parents manipulate the conscience by making the child feel guilty. For the child, avoiding guilt becomes the motivator for right behaviour..



Teen Challenge: Questions & Answers About Defiance and Rebellion

Parents are faced with varying levels of challenges. For some parents, it is trying to get their teens to turn off the light in their bedroom. Other parents are dealing with more grave matters: drugs, sexual activity, and criminal activity. We believe the principles presented here can be scaled up or down to fit most situations. As a supplemental resource, this series of questions and answers provides general answers that fit a broad range of challenges with teens. We trust you will find it of value to your unique situation.

1. I didn't discover your books until too late. My teenager is in complete rebellion. I'm so afraid and angry and hurt. What can I do?

There is a false notion in our society that at age eighteen your kids will cease to be your children and you can no longer influence them. Chances are, you're going to live the next twenty, thirty, even forty years on this earth, so you'll have decades with your adult children. You may not have had the best years with your children in the past, but you've got the rest of your life to make it right. Begin by evaluating your own parenting to be sure you're not contributing to the problem. Then start working on rebuilding trust and influence. You haven't found this information too late. As long as you and your children both live, it's never too late to rebuild your relationship.

2. My teenager won't even talk to me. How can I work on the great communication suggestions you make in your book?

If you can't stand to look at each other because you know you're going to break out into a fight, then why not just slip a note under her door? It doesn't have to be a long note, and it certainly shouldn't be accusatory. Write something as simple as, "I really do love you. I'm just struggling, and I know you're struggling, too." And don't be surprised when a note comes flying by you when you've got your hands in the dishwasher. Sometimes we communicate better when we're not face-to-face. We can become so antagonistic to each other as parents and teens. Our physical presence reminds us of a hurtful word or a hurtful action, and before we know it, we're screaming. These walls can be broken down with just a simple note. If you learn to express your love in ways your teen can understand, and you persevere in doing so, eventually you will win through. Sometimes just

Webster's defines our manners as our "morals shown in conduct."

placing your hand on your teenager's shoulder and saying, "I really appreciate what you've done," can break down a wall.

3. My teenager is showing signs that he doesn't respect me anymore. What can I do to regain my authority?

Usually the lack of respect for a parent has been there all along; it's just that the way a teenager demonstrates disrespect is more visible, especially now that he is the same size or bigger than the parent. Sometimes a teen feels a greater sense of security in himself, like maybe he doesn't need to give respect to the parent anymore. In all probability, respect has been missing for a long time. Your goal shouldn't be to regain dominance over your teenager, but to achieve influence. It's natural to want to control something that's out of control, especially when that something is your child. But when you have teenagers, using force won't get you where you want to go. You have no good options besides working to lead by your relational influence.

One area you'll want to work on is freedom. Not the unrestrained, do-whatever-you-want type of freedom, but the kind of freedom in which your teen is emancipated to communicate and to be his own person without the fear that an authority figure is going to force him to become something other than what he is. It is also possible that you have misinterpreted your teen. What you are hopefully headed toward with your teenager is a peer relationship. But neither you nor your teen knows exactly how to act as equals. What you've interpreted as a lack of respect might be your teenager's first attempt at friendly familiarity. She might be teasing you.

It's usually quite clear when a teenager means to show disrespect. So if you're not sure, and if your child usually doesn't speak this way, you might at least ask yourself whether you two are just reaching a point in your relationship where you feel you can have a little bit of fun.

Don't try to regain control. Work instead on regaining your teen's respect and trust.

Full article available from www.gfi-singapore.org

Churches Running GFI Programmes in July 2006

Infant Way

FCBC • GFI • Every Nation Church • His Sanctuary

Toddler Way

His Sanctuary

Middle Years Way

NA

Adolescent Way

Church of Singapore

Innocent Way

NA

Virtuous Way

Bread of Life • Bethesda Frankel Estate Church • City Missions Church • Covenant EFC •
FCBC • GFI • Holy Spirit Church

*If you have a GFI group running in your church and is not listed above, do email
dorcass.li@gfi-singapore.org*

A family activity

Using the Street Directory—for ages 6 years and older

Use your local street directory to help your children learn about maps.

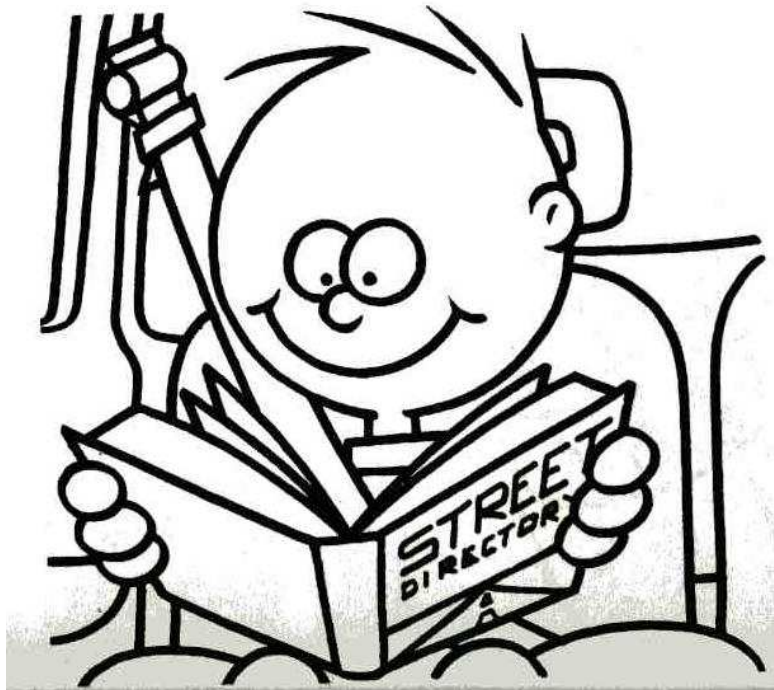
What You Need

- Street directory or map of your local area

What To Do

Before you go for walks with your children, or short drives in the car together, look up where you are going in your street directory. Work out a route together and take it with you. Check it as you turn corners and change directions. Look for local landmarks such as schools, churches, shopping centres and parks on the map.

As your children gain mapping skills, make them the 'navigator' for longer trips to places you have not been before. Keep your cool! You will probably get lost a few times, but many adults go through their whole lives without ever developing a good sense of direction. Help your children gain mastery over this important life skill in a fun and relaxing way. Besides, all the walks will be great for your own fitness level!



Source: 501 TV-free Activities for kids by Di Hodges

GFI has moved to a new location that is nearer to town. We are now opposite Parkway Parade!!

New address

GFI Singapore

No. 40R East Coast Road Singapore 429093

Tel/Fax: 6447 0300

We have a GFI Store that you can come visit and browse. All are welcome.

You said “Very good.”—A Revisit

Many emailed me to ask what was the reply given to the last question. So here it is plus teaching commentary.

<p>“Thecla, I just need to get some things from the supermarket and we will be on our way, so be patient.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-activity—letting child know ahead what to expect • Speaking the virtue “be patient” rather than the negative “don’t complain”
<p>“Yes mommy. But may I eat something? I am hungry.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child gave verbal respond “yes mommy” • Child asking permission “May I” rather than whining/complaining “mommy, I am hungry” or demanding “I want to eat”
<p>“No, I don’t think that is wise. It is almost dinner time.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking virtue • Giving moral reason
<p>“But I am really hungry. Can you just buy me the jelly drink? Please...?” “No...I don’t think you are really that hungry Thecla. I think you just want to have the jelly drink.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stating fact as observed “I think you just want to...” rather than attacking with accusation “Don’t pretend! You just want to eat the jelly. Right!”
<p>“I am hungry mommy. I am very hungry.” “Very good. Then you will have a good appetite when we get home.” “I’m hungry, I’m hungry, I’m hungry, I’m hungry, I’m hungry...” “Thecla, stop whining.” “I am not whining mommy. I am just singing a I’m hungry song.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond calmly instead of with anger or frustration
<p>Original version (real version) “Do you feel good when you keep repeating I’m hungry?” “ha??”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Feel good” is too vague
<p>“Does saying repeatedly I’m hungry makes you feel more hungry or less hungry?” “It makes me feel more hungry.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Feel more hungry or less hungry” is clear and can be understood by 6 year old.
<p>“Then why do you want to do that. Why do you want to keep saying I’m hungry?” “Because you said ‘Very good’ when I said I am hungry.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attempt to find out reason behind the behaviour. • This is often the key. Parents often form reasons behind children’s behaviours from their own past experience. It may not be the same as child’s reason.
<p>“Oh...when mommy says ‘Very good’ mommy meant that it would be very good for you when we reach home to have dinner. Not that it is very good for you to say ‘I’m hungry’”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving clear explanations • Supposing that parent thinks that child is just being cheeky, we choose to give child the benefit of the doubt.

Conversation between a mother and her six-year-old

The Jacksons

Many who have done the Along the Adolescent Way have asked about the theme song of the programme. Do you have the lyrics? It's such a lovely song! Where can I buy the CD? Well here is it at last!!! The singer and composer of this song is a husband and wife team; Bruce and Brenda Jackson. While serving in a pastoral capacity in a local church, Bruce Jackson and his family saw, firsthand, the tremendous struggles within marriages and family relationships. The Jacksons were commissioned as "Missionaries to the Family" and stepped out into a full-time outreach to troubled homes. Music has always been the most effective tool for the Jacksons, as it allows walls of opposition to be torn down and gives an effective entrance for spiritual truth. Dealing with pertinent issues, these concerts have been a power-packed vehicle for bringing individuals and families to a place where they can make life-changing decisions. The Jacksons' four children, ranging in age from twenty-two down to ten, have demonstrated unusual giftedness in music and communication as they add a vital dimension in portraying a Christian family.



The Jackson Family has returned to the U.S. from a month-long international tour to China. Their family's goal is to reach people for Jesus Christ and that was exactly what they did in "communist" China. Although government oppression has, for decades, squashed spiritual revival in this massive country, the Jackson family was able to successfully minister to the people by doing high-profile concerts that did not appear to be connected to religion. The communist belief that there is no God is carried out in every aspect of their lives; the Jackson family communicated the opposite as they travelled in Harbin and Shenyang. Although the government stopped one of the family's concerts in Harbin, the Jacksons were able to move on and minister unhindered in Shenyang to capacity crowds.

The trip was overwhelmingly fruitful as the Jacksons personally saw more than 4,000 spiritual decisions over the course of their trip. Their goal has been to help hurting families in a society that is relationally bankrupt. Even though the U.S. was their original target group, they have discovered that family issues cross international boundaries. People everywhere have struggled with family breakdowns just as we have seen in American homes.

The trip was overwhelmingly fruitful as the Jacksons personally saw more than 4,000 spiritual decisions over the course of their trip. Their goal has been to help hurting families in a society that is relationally bankrupt. Even though the U.S. was their original target group, they have discovered that family issues cross international boundaries. People everywhere have struggled with family breakdowns just as we have seen in American homes.

"The ministry of Bruce & Brenda Jackson goes far beyond their lyrics and melodies. Their family is beautiful and the Christian community is blessed by them!"

Gary and Ann Marie Ezzo Authors,
Growing Kids God's Way

The Jacksons are available for invitation to hold family themed concerts. For concert scheduling and other information about the ministry please contact them at:

FamilySong Ministries / FSM International

P.O. Box 919

Troy, OH 45373

Phone: 937-339-7871

Fax: 937-339-7872

Email: jacksonfamily@mics.net

'Loving Eyes' song is available in the Jackson's album "Fingerprints". You can buy this from GFI Singapore now at a special price of S\$15 each only.