

Bedtime stories

Boys and girls love to hear about the exploits of their parents and grandparents when they were young.

Not only do these incidents often prove to be favourite bedtime stories, at the same time they help the children to relate more closely to their elders who once were young themselves.

I vividly remember one such occasion when four of our grandchildren were visiting us overnight. They were bedded down together in the one room, and before “Goodnight” was said, they pressed me, insisting that I tell them of incidents from my younger days.

Events we share with our children could well include times when God rescued us from going in a wrong direction. Or how he answered our prayers so that certain needs in our life were met in a wonderful way.

As our children, or grandchildren, learn how God gently and wonderfully dealt with us in our ordinary childhood affairs, they will see how the Christian life can be meaningful, exciting and worthwhile.

Without the children realising it, the bedtime story can therefore be a teaching event, and “all your children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.” Isaiah 54.13.

* * *

Parents can tell, but never teach, unless they practice what they preach.

Ken Packer