

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
Wichita KS 67204  
(316) 838-4195  
www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

April 22, 2007

## Words children should hear

by David King

"My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings" (Prov. 4:20).

Parenting is the most difficult job a person can take on in life. If the outcome is positive, it can also be the most rewarding. There are many skills and strategies that are required to be a good parent. But the one tool that will make the biggest difference in raising a child is the words a parent chooses to use.

This past week, the public was treated to a sorry example of words a parent should never use with a child. An audio clip of a phone message from actor Alec Baldwin to his young daughter was released. It was a profanity-laced diatribe, berating the poor girl, calling her awful names. Clearly, these were words that a parent should never use with a child. (This incident, by the way, says a lot about looking to Hollywood for role models.)

But there are other words that a parent should use when communicating with a child. If a child grows up hearing these words often, they will bolster his self-image, and significantly influence the direction of his life.

In no particular order, here are several words that every child should hear.

**"No!"** A child is born without any sense of self-restraint, and as he grows older, that ability must be taught. But saying "no" is meaningless, unless it is (1) used consistently, and (2) enforced consistently — physically, if necessary.

**"You can do it!"** and **"Well done!"** Along with the "no's" should be frequent encouragement to take on difficult tasks, and praise when those challenges are met. Adjustments

have to be made for a child's limited knowledge and ability, of course. But frequent encouragement and praise strengthen a child's confidence to take on life.

**"Life's not fair."** A parent strives to impart a sense of justice to a child, *i.e.*, we get what we deserve. But in the real world, that rule doesn't always work. So children need to learn to expect some disappointment, and to deal with it without complaining or blaming.

**"I love you."** The world can be a hard, cold place, especially for a little one who is encountering it for the first time. Verbal reminders from parents of their unconditional love provide a haven of security for a child.

**"I'm sorry."** Parents, like other human beings, are not perfect, and sometimes make mistakes. There is no shame in admitting our mistakes to our children; and if those mistakes directly affect them, a sincere apology can even enhance their respect for us.

**"Because God said so."** A variation on the more popular, "because I said so," these words point the child to a more reliable source of authority in their life. Respect for God begins in a home where God is the undisputed arbiter of all decisions.

There are many other words that a child should hear throughout his early years, but these give a good indication of the kind of verbal environment that produces healthy, well-adjusted young people.

All of this assumes, of course, that any words are used at all. So Rule #1 should be: Parents, talk to your children!