

MOM'S LIFE STORY MATTERS!

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Questions we'll ask today...

- Motherhood can make you think you've lost your identity! Your life story is a treasure that holds many clues as to who God made you to be, and how you make choices in all the roles you play as a woman, including motherhood!
 - How does YOUR life story impact how you parent your children?
 - What might the process of spiritual development have to offer as we consider how our own story impacts our parenting?

Our Stories...

- What are two things your mother gave you, and two things she did not?

- What are two things your father gave you and two things he did not?

Fredrick Beuchner

...the Christian faith always has to do with flesh and blood, time and space, more specifically with your flesh and blood and mine, with time and space that day by day we are all of us involved with, stub our toes on, flounder around in trying to look as if we had good sense. In other words, the truth that Christianity claims to be true is ultimately to be found, if it's to be found at all, not in the Bible, or the church, or theology---the best they can do is point to the truth---but in our own stories.

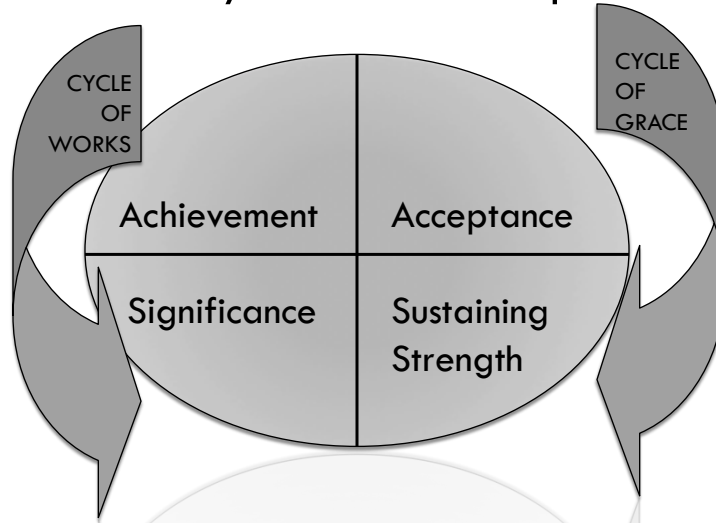
If the God you believe in as an idea doesn't start showing up in what happens in your own life, you have as much cause for concern as if the God you don't believe in as an idea does start showing up.

It is absolutely crucial, therefore, to keep in constant touch with what is going on in ones life story and to pay close attention to what is going on in the stories of others' lives. If God is present anywhere, it is in those stories that God is present. If God is not present in those stories, then they are scarcely worth telling.

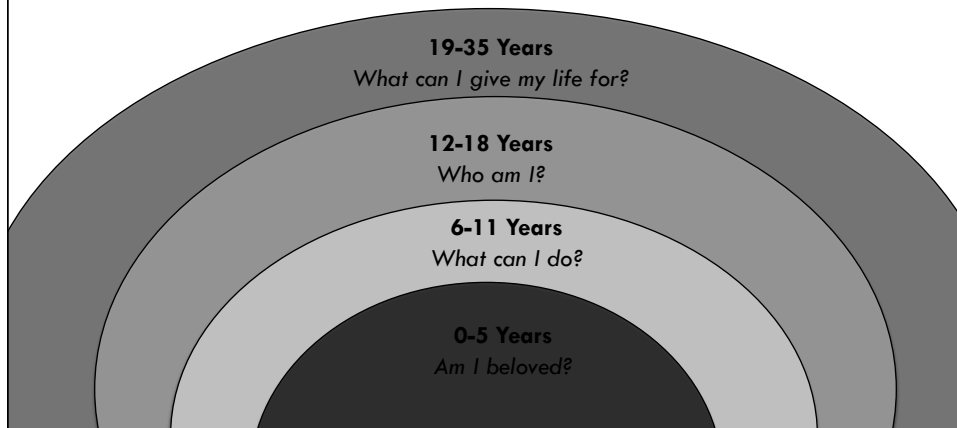
Adapted from Dr. Frank Lake's
Clinical Theology by Eddie Gibbs



Healthy Human Development



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Parenting & Personhood

1. **"Our Personhood precedes our parenthood"**. You bring who you are to being a parent.
2. **"Everything is spiritual which includes ALL of life"**. – Everything we do throughout each day is.... Washing dishes, laundry, cleaning floor.
3. **"The power of words at every stage, spoken and unspoken, has the power for good or for evil."**
4. **Something good is happening in every home** and we want to fan that into flame.
5. **Growth is developmental**. You can't skip the stages of growth.
6. **Ritual and routine are critical to growth**. C.S.Lewis says, "Mere change is not growth. Growth is the synthesis of change and continuity. Without continuity there is no growth."
7. **Children help to grow us up**. They help us to love. They help us face ourselves. They help us not take ourselves too seriously.

Responding to God

- Our hope is that we can continually get better at recognizing where we are reacting to our stories more readily than we are recognizing and responding to God.
 - Knowing our own stories is of critical importance
 - Allowing our whole stories to be reframed by God's love
 - Make choices more and more based on who God says you are instead of reacting from our past experiences

Spiritual Practices

- What spiritual practices will help you to live and parent in a cycle of grace?
 - Being aware of your current circumstances
 - “My Life Now Map” from Listen To My Life
 - Being aware of your own life story
 - “My Life Story Map” from Listen To My Life
 - “What Your Childhood Memories Say About You” Kevin Leman
 - Being aware of God’s activity each day
 - “Reviewing My Days” from Listen To My Life
 - “Making Heart Bread” by Matthew Linn
 - Be a part of a community of people who help one another recognize and respond to God in their stories

To Get Started or to Learn More

- Browse the resources on www.onlifemaps.com for resources and information on life story
- Purchase a copy of the book today
- Sign up to receive oneLife Letters, a weekly blog post via email about spiritual development and life story
- Ask us about joining in our teleclasses for facilitators
- Request a copy of the Listen To My Life Group Guide
- Contact us for any support needed to get started – service@oneLifemaps.com