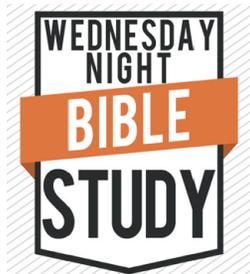


**Be affectionate and communicative with your kids** You can google the statistics on your own, but even the least spiritual studies tell us that, beyond the baseline of simply having a father, whether a child received affection from their father and whether their father communicated with them well are powerful indicators of their future well-being. Don't be a stoic. Tell your kids why you're proud of them. Hug them. Talk to them.

The upside to a list like this is simplicity and clarity. The downside is that there's no place to hide. We all stumble in many ways. So bless your family by repenting, trusting God's grace to overcome your weakness, and becoming more faithful by the power of the indwelling Spirit.



**Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We are starting a new series on Wednesday nights on "The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689". Please come and join us as we study what we as Baptists believe.

Charles Spurgeon reprinted the Baptist Confession in 1855 with these words of introduction. His words are a poignant today as they were then:

"This ancient document is a most excellent epitome of the things most surely believed among us. By the preserving hand of the Triune Jehovah we have been kept faithful to the great points of our glorious Gospel, and we feel more resolved perpetually to abide by them.

This little volume is not issued as an authoritative rule, or code of faith, whereby ye are to be fettered, but as an assistance to you in controversy, a confirmation in faith, and a means of edification in righteousness. Here the younger members of our church will have a body of divinity in small compass, and by means of the scriptural proofs, will be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in them."

**2019 VBS**  
**June 28 – 30, 2019**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please don't forget to save those **tin cans of all shapes and sizes** for VBS. Please place them in the box marked VBS under the table by the water fountain.



## **POPLAR POINTERS**

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Post Office Box 124  
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Tel: (864) 861-2196  
Lucas Mann, Pastor  
Tel: (864) 909-7564

*Rooted in trust and hope in the Lord.  
Branching out in ministry and service in our community.  
– Jeremiah 17:7-8*

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### **Being a Father Isn't Easy, but it is Simple**

by Jared Olivetti

**Love the Lord** Just as it is impossible to lift others higher than where you're standing, so it's virtually impossible to help your children while you remain distant from God. Not only for the sake of your own joy and spiritual health, but for your children's sake, draw close to God by all the means He's given.

**Love your wife** Our youth-centered culture is constantly trying to invert the structure of our homes, making children the center and the implicit leaders. But as loving as it seems to be hyper-attentive to your kids, it's far more important for you to love your wife, to build your home around the marriage relationship, not the relationship between parents and kids. In your love for your wife is your children's best example and great security.

**Lead family worship** It doesn't need to be extravagant or long or particularly deep. But it does need to be consistent and it does need to be led by you. Set a time, sing some Psalms, read a Bible passage, ask each kid a question about the passage, and then pray together. Even if this wasn't the Biblical pattern for Christian families, could you give me a decent argument why it's a waste of time or unnecessary?

**Maintain a high commitment to the church** One of the great tragedies of American protestantism is the failure of fathers to lead their family into the church. Not only for God's glory but for your children's good, develop, maintain and practice a very high commitment to your church family. In years to come, may your kids be able to say, "We always knew that if the church doors were open, we would be there."

(continued on back)