

# CHILDREN

## from the book "Love Never Ends"

- I Introduction (1 minute) (Taken from the book, "Love Never Ends", used with permission.)

You may already know the joy and challenge of having children. You may be planning to have children in the future. Even if you don't plan to have children, hopefully, the love you have for each other will be able to overflow into the lives of the children whose lives you will touch in the years ahead.

The word "discipline" means "learner" or "student". To discipline a child is to teach a child. What values do you want to teach your child? What do you want to teach them about love, faith and life? Remember that the children in your life will learn to love, respect and value others by the way you love, respect and value each other.

- II Sharing Our Love with Children

(H. & W.: A. & B. - 10 minutes)

- A. Presenters share some things that changed when children were added to your family.
- B. Presenters share what you believe are some qualities and characteristics that good parents should have.
- C. Exercise - Part 1 from the book "Love Never Ends", page 39.
  - 1. Participants answer the questions from the book. (5 minutes)
  - 2. Participants discuss privately with their spouse. (20 minutes)

- III What we Teach our Children

(H. & W.: A. & B. - 10 minutes)

- A. Presenters share the areas you think you've done a good job teaching your children.
- B. Presenters share the areas you believe you failed teaching your children.
- C. Exercise - Part 2 from the book "Love Never Ends", page 40.
  - 1. Participants answer the questions from the book. (5 minutes)
  - 2. Participants discuss privately with their spouse. (20 minutes)

- IV Conclusion (2 minutes) (Taken from the book, "Love Never Ends", used with permission.)

- A. It is important that we are parents to our children and teach them by our example. Communication is an important element in making sure our children receive the same message from both of us. Children can be good at getting between us as a couple, so we need to be aware and make sure we stand together as parents.
- B. Activities to do at home:
  - Tell about a positive experience you had of being disciplined when you were a child. Next, try to tell about a frightening or negative experience of discipline.
  - Choose a child you both know. (The child may or may not be your own child.) Talk about his/her life and needs. Create a way that you as a couple can reach out to affirm and help that child.