

Parenting - Parents Helping Parents

This week I was commiserating with another mom about my parenting challenges and frequent failure to live up to my own standards of gentleness and respect in dealing with my kids. It was such an encouraging time, as we each called the other to a better place, just by our honesty regarding our shortcomings and shared personal goals for growth in the parenting arena. I always feel so inspired by that kind of conversation. I feel I can go for at least a few weeks without yelling at my kids! As I was reflecting on this inspiration, it occurred to me that many moms do not seek out this kind of support (and believe me, you may have to try sharing openly with several moms, before you find one who will be honest with you in return). We often judge others' approaches to parenting rather than taking turns listening to frustrations/failures and successes, and relating our own. We need to offer support first, and advice only when asked (or when there is the trust present to speak into another's life uninvited). Just as a child is only damaged when shamed into obeying, parenting is only worsened, rather than improved by the judgmental words or behavior of other parents. Let us love and encourage one another in this difficult job! We need each others ears, experience, advice, and love, so let the mutual encouragement begin!