

THE GIFTS OF ATTACHMENT

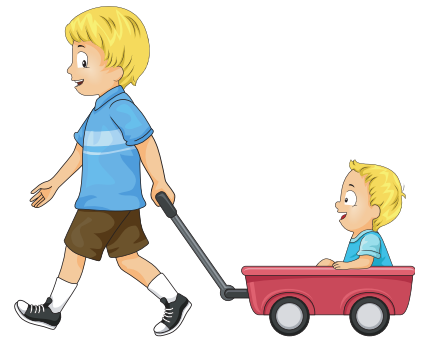
for Children and Their Parents

Attachment allows us to lead our children toward maturity both emotionally and spiritually. Our children will become like the people they're attached to. God intends for children to be attached primarily to their caregivers when they're young.



- gives our child a sense of home
- gives our child a home base to return to when alarmed

- evokes instincts to care for others
- provides a mirror for self-discovery so our child see the truth about himself (peers fail at this)



- allows us to pass on language, culture, and values to our child
- renders our child receptive to our care so we can keep her safe

- gives our child a sense of belonging and significance
- provides a "north star" so our child can get his bearings when he feels lost



- provides our child with a healthy model to emulate
- creates a womb for continued growth

*adapted from Gordon Neufeld's model of human development

When they're grown, we hope our children will become attached to God as their primary source of hope, strength, and meaning. God is the ultimate attachment figure. Our children's true home is in heaven, and they will discover the fuller truth about who they are only by looking into God's face.