

# **WE ARE FAMILY**

## **Cultivating the Soil and Carrying the Torch**

**Presentation for the School of Meanings and Values  
November 8, 1997**

**Sara Blackstock**

**Family Life Committee  
Fifth Epochal Fellowship  
of The Urantia Book**

**“The people of another age  
will better understand the gospel of the kingdom  
when it is presented in terms  
expressive of the family relationship....”**

**Jesus on the ideal of family**

**The Urantia Book  
Page 1603  
142:7.4**

Sara L. Blackstock  
Family Life Committee  
120 Inverness Ct.  
Benicia, California 94510

Voice: 707-747-1854 FAX: 707-747-9501 E-MAIL: slb@linkzone.com

November 6, 1997

Dear Society Presidents, secretaries, mentors, parents, and friends,

The Family Life Committee of the Fellowship would like to ask your help in:

- 1) Gathering resource and visioning people committed to working for the benefit of family
- 2) Gathering teams interested in conference planning
- 3) Gathering people interested in putting together an activity guide for kids of all ages to help guide them into greater consciousness of the spirit.

1) **VISIONING RESOURCE TEAM** - We are developing a group of about 50 people who are committed to the ideal of family within this revelation and society. These people would form a resource team who would participate in visioning for the future what readers of the Urantia Book can do for children and family. . We would like to enrich and enlarge this process which has been going on now with the ad hoc committee of the Fellowship for more than 3 years.

2) **CONFERENCE PLANNING**

- a. Workshop presenters for conferences:

People who have developed materials for parent training or pre-marital training, elder care, transitions such as births, deaths, rites of passage, single parenting, mixed faith families, etc.

- b. Programs for youth at all ages:

People who like to work with kids of any age; people who are interested in helping with the programs for toddlers, youth, and teens at conferences. If the time commitment and work at conferences can be spread out, it may not be such a burden on a few people to make for successful experiences for our youth. We are looking to form a pool of people who are interested in sharing their expertise with kids at conferences - weavers, potters, rope course leaders, storytellers, drama people, artists, etc.

3) **AN ACTIVITY GUIDE** - in a survey of what parents most would like help in at the top of the list was secondary works from the Urantia Book, downstepped for kids, and activities for kids at home, at study groups, at Jesus Birthday picnics.

These can be anything from rituals that parents do in their homes with their kids to the best of the curriculum from a local Sunday school. We need people who are interested in researching the information on the web for kids from other religious paths; for example the Hindu children build shrines and Buddhist children make flags. Interfaith activities for “our” children can only make their experiences richer. Often sharing simple ideas that kids seem to respond to will stimulate parents and mentors toward creativity and experimentation with kids and spiritual expressions. If we could get parents to share with us their success and failures, it would enrich the experience for our whole community. If you could entuse parents, mentors, professionals in your area who are either students of our revelation, or on another spiritual path to share a couple of their favorite activities with kids, this would add a great deal to the activity guide which we hope to have out in the first months of 1998.

Please ask anyone who is interested in either of these realms to contact me at any of the above ways.

Thank you for helping us learn how to be a “village” with our great revelation, to contributing to the continuing formation of an ongoing community, learning how to bring and uplifting the ideals of family within society.

Morontia mota #24: “The acts of today are the destiny of tomorrow”. (556) or in the words of Goethe: “Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

In God’s cosmic family,  
Sara Blackstock

*Sara Blackstock*



For the Family Life Committee of the Fellowship

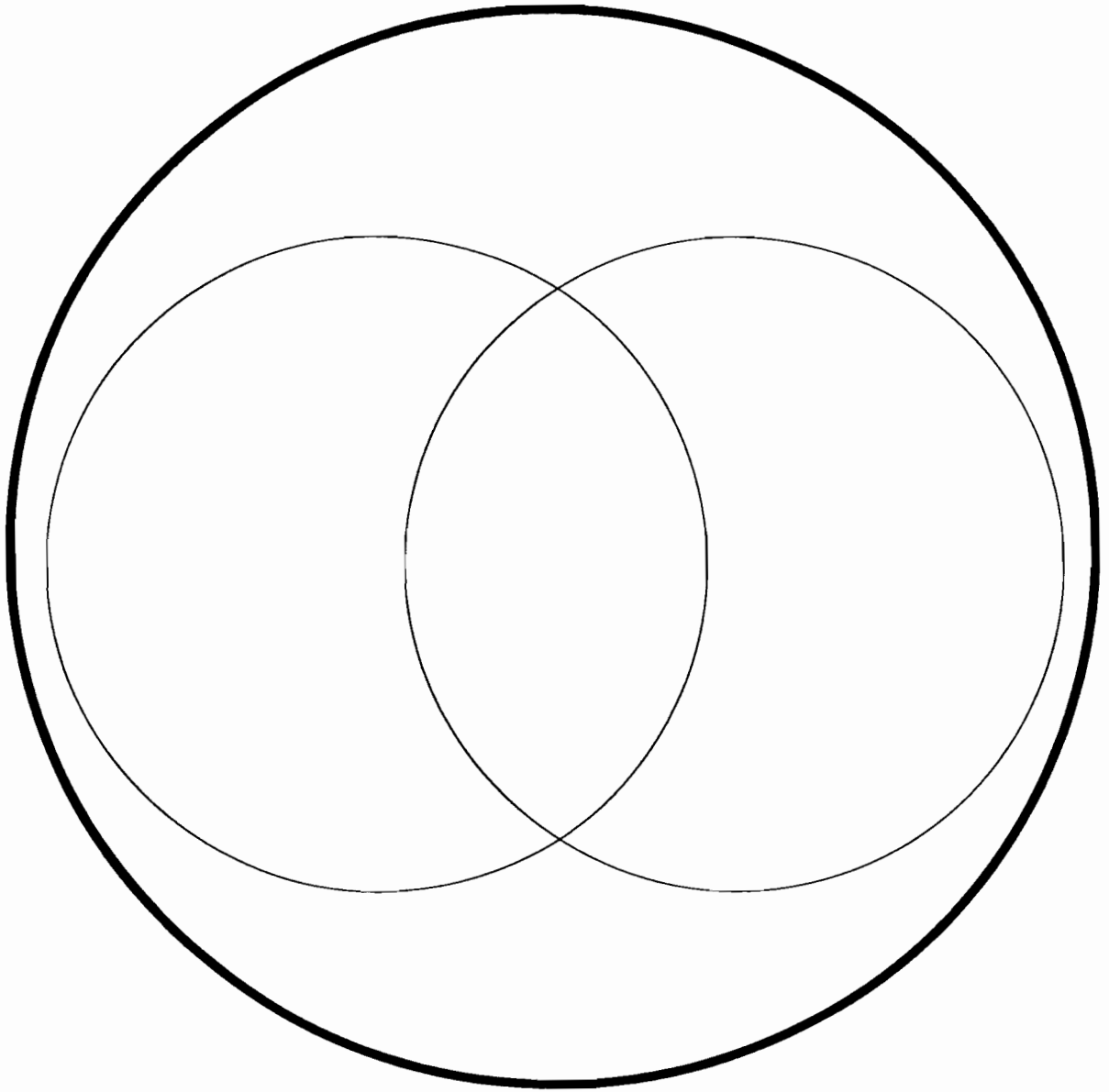
**To join the Family Life Chat List send a message to:**

**<Majordomo@ubfellowship.org> In the body of the message put  
<subscribe flc your e mail address >**

**To tune into the Family Life web page:**

**<http://www.ubfellowship.org/family>**

# THE SEED.....THE CHILD



"Personality is never spontaneous; it is the gift of the Paradise Father."(UB 8)

"The Universal Father is the secret of the reality of personality, the bestowal of personality, and the destiny of personality." (UB 8)

## **FATHERLY LOVE**

**“... Jesus taught his followers to manifest fatherly love rather than brotherly love. Brotherly love would love your neighbor as you love yourself, and that would be adequate fulfillment of the “golden rule”. But fatherly affection would require that you should love your fellow mortals as Jesus loves you.”**

**(UB 1573/140:5.1)**

## **4 FAITH ATTITUDES**

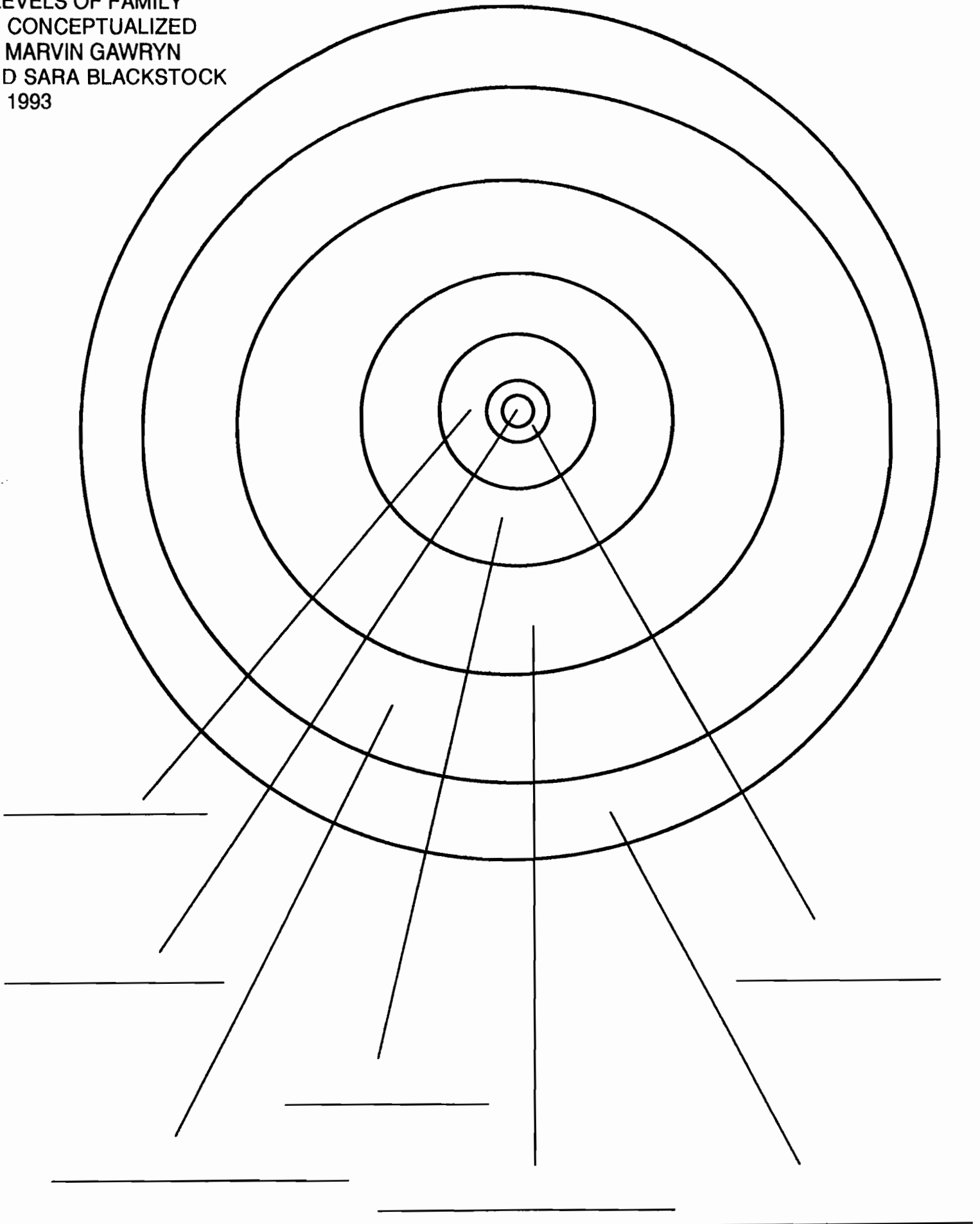
1. To be poor in spirit - humble, teachable, truth-seeking
2. To hunger and thirst for righteousness - seeking for divine strength; craving spiritual power; experiencing the pleasure of experiential righteousness.
3. To “endure” meekness - to have an attitude of cooperating with God - “Your will be done”; embraces an unshakable faith in a lawful and friendly universe.
4. To be pure in heart - to have faith in our fellow beings; always anticynical; always looks for the best in others - “... that is the attitude of a true parent”. (1574)

If we can incorporate the above faith attitudes into our being, we can be “...expected to attain such levels of divine selflessness as to be able to attempt the amazing exercise of fatherly affection:....” (1574) We can “...be empowered to show mercy, promote peace, and endure persecutions, and throughout all of these trying situations to love even unlovely mankind with a fatherly love. A father’s affection can attain levels of devotion that immeasurably transcend a brother’s affection.” (1574)

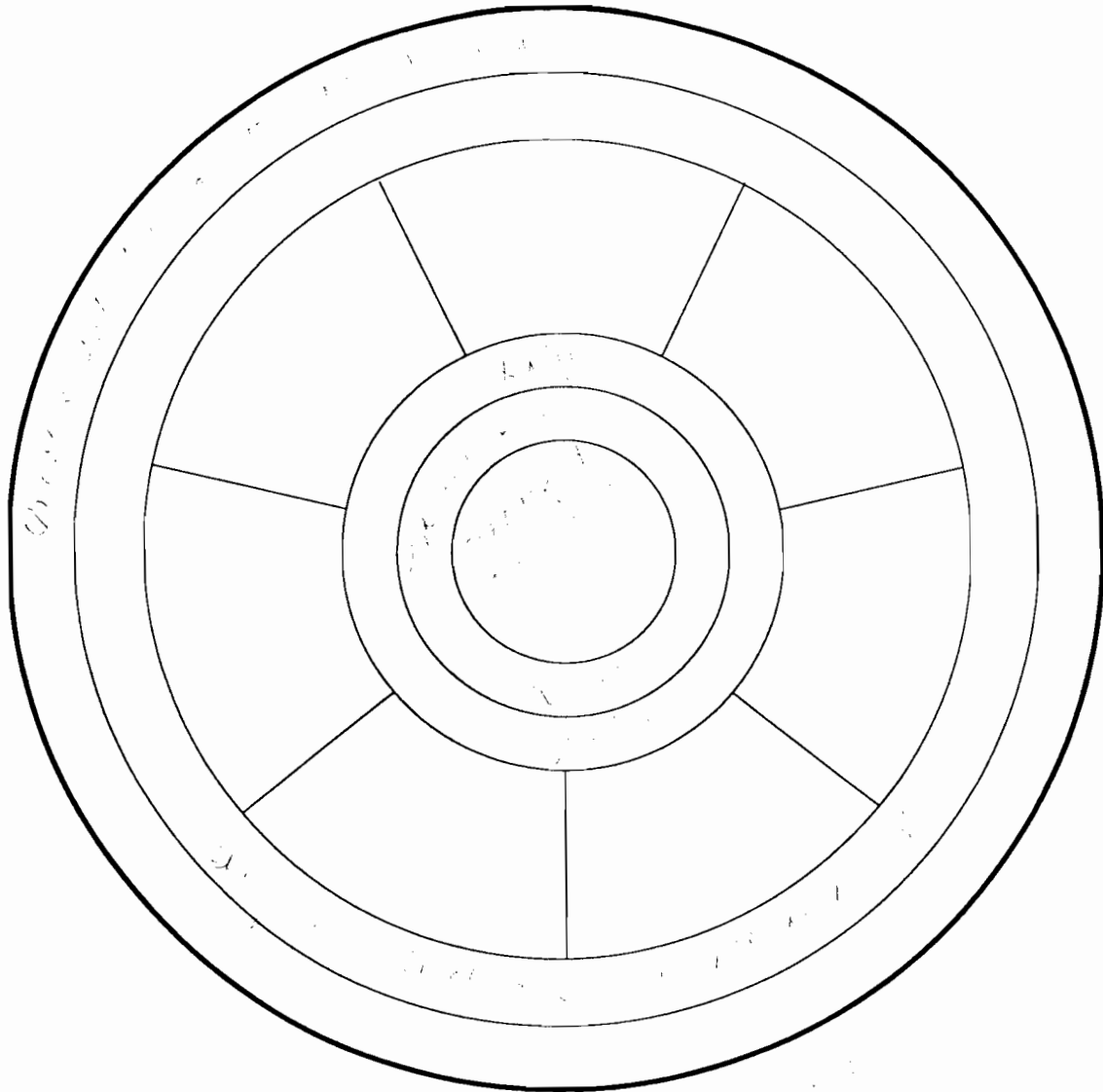
## **4 TRANSCENDENT AND SUPREME REACTIONS OF FATHERLY LOVE**

1. Emotional attitude of tenderheartedness; to be able to give evidence of emotional feeling; to be sensitive, responsive to human need.
2. To be actively and dynamically merciful; “A loving parent experiences little difficulty in forgiving his child, even many times.”
3. To be peacemakers; “...peacemaking is the cure of distrust and suspicion.” “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
4. To be able to be persecuted for righteousness sake; a fatherly love can lay down his life for his friends. “Fatherly love delights in returning good for evil.” (1575)

7 LEVELS OF FAMILY  
AS CONCEPTUALIZED  
BY MARVIN GAWRYN  
AND SARA BLACKSTOCK  
1993



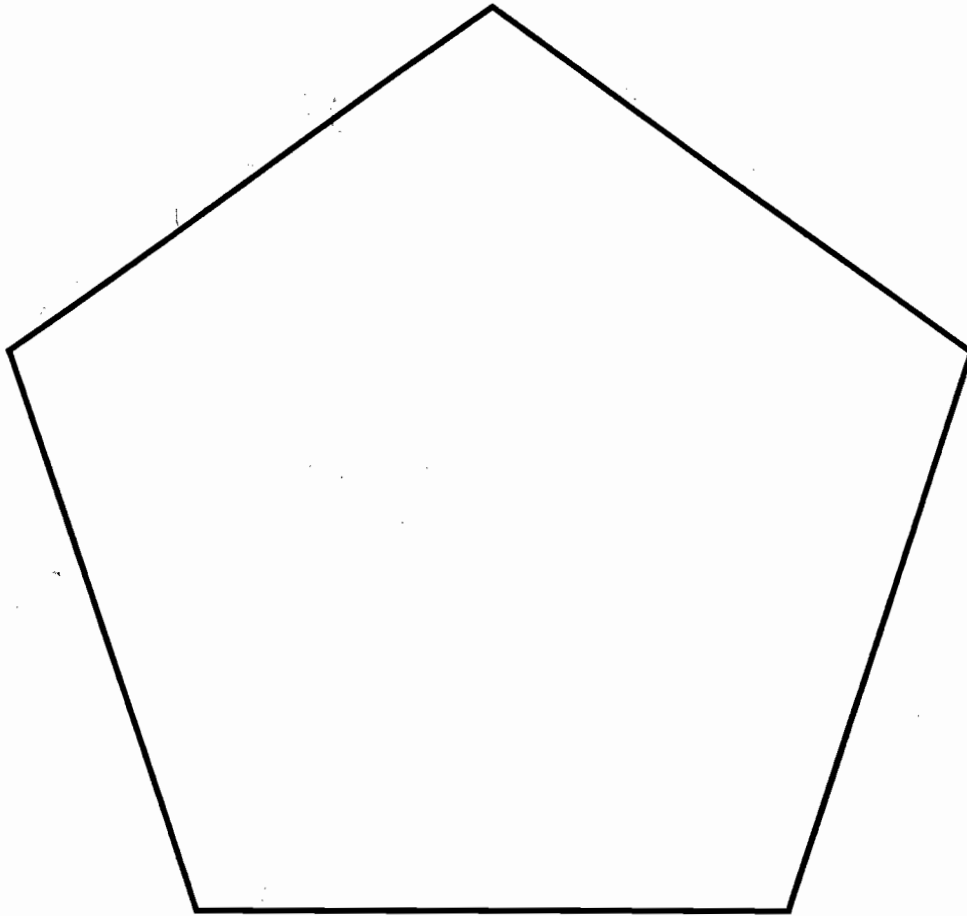
# ENDOWMENTS AND INFLUENCES IN A CHILD'S MIND



The seventh circle. This level is entered when human beings develop the powers of personal choice, individual decision, moral responsibility, and the capacity for the attainment of spiritual individuality. This signifies the united function of the seven adjutant mind-spirits under the direction of the spirit of wisdom, the encirclement of the mortal creature in the influence of the Holy Spirit, and, on Urantia, the first functioning of the Spirit of Truth, together with the reception of a Thought Adjuster in the mortal mind. Entrance upon the seventh circle constitutes a mortal creature a truly potential citizen of the local universe.

(UB1210/100:6.13)

# PERIMETERS OF THE GARDEN

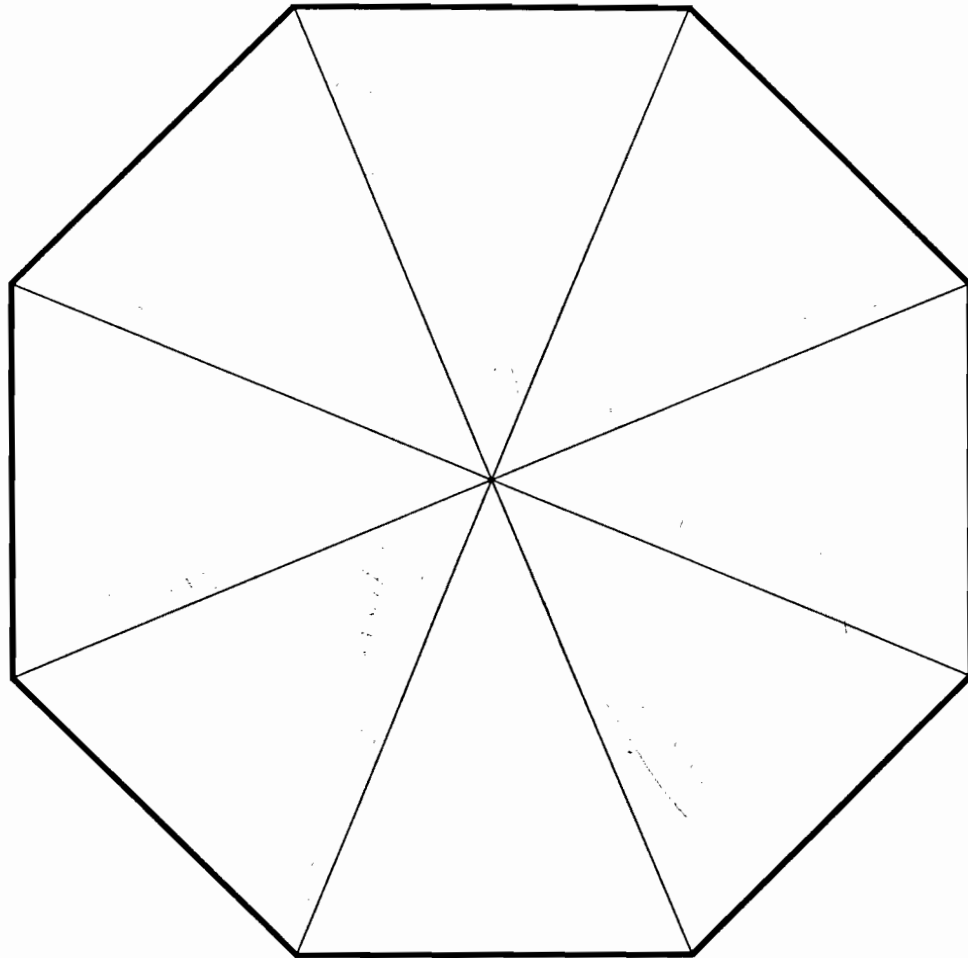


"Children are permanently impressed only by the loyalties of their adult associates; precept or even example is not lastingly influential. Loyal persons are growing persons, and growth is an impressive and inspiring reality." (1094 / 100:1.4)

[Jesus had] "...keen realization of the reality and sacredness of all human loyalties - personal honor, family love, religious obligation, social duty, and economic necessity." (2089 / 196:0.7)

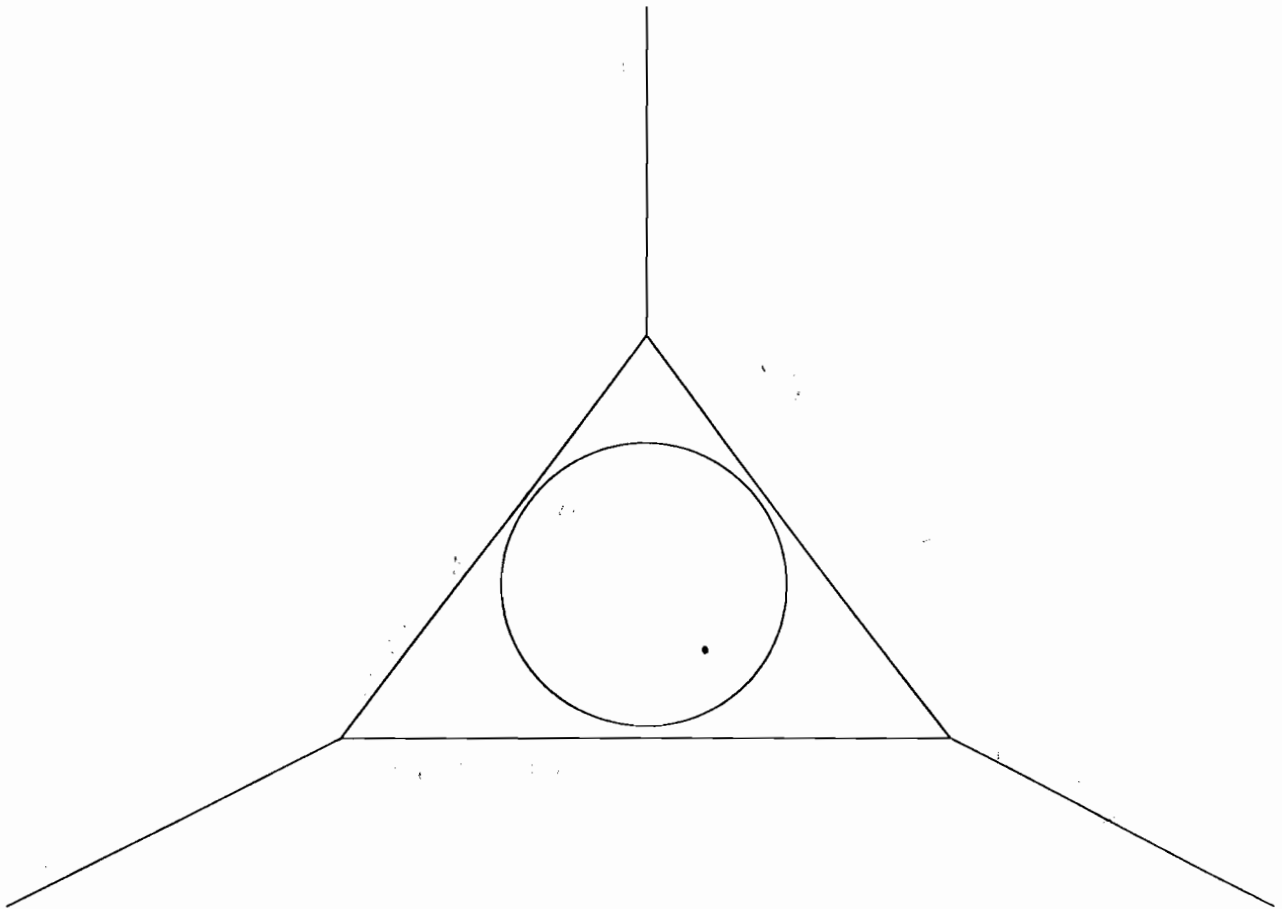


# COMPONENTS OF THE SOIL



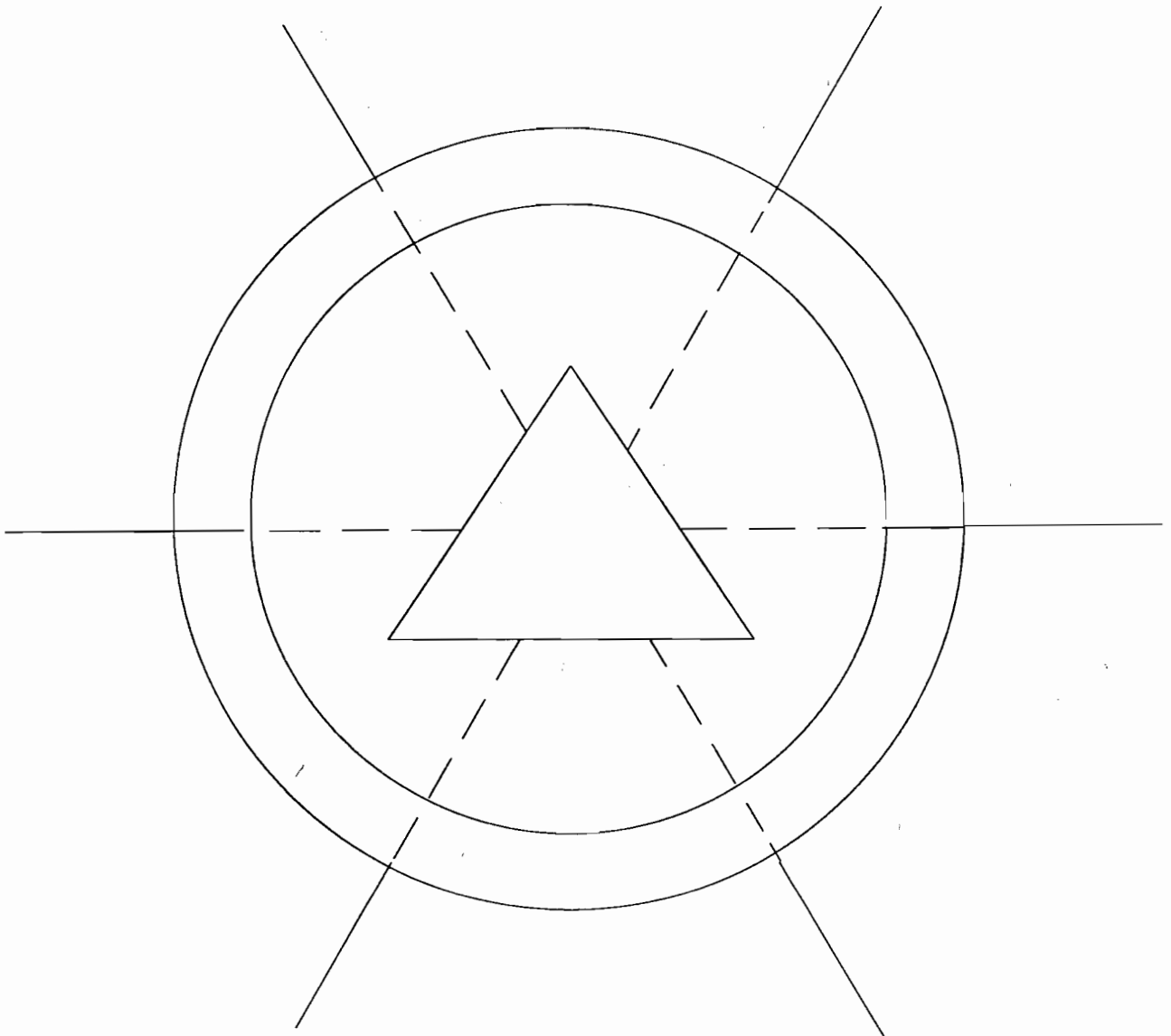
"The soil essential for religious growth presupposes  
a progressive life of self-realization,  
the coordination of natural propensities,  
the exercise of curiosity  
and the enjoyment of reasonable adventure,  
the experiencing of feelings of satisfaction,  
the functioning of the fear stimulus of attention and awareness,  
the wonder-lure,  
and a normal consciousness of smallness, humility." (1094 / 100:1.5)

# BALANCED GROWTH THROUGH.....



"It is to the mind of perfect poise, housed in a body of clean habits, stabilized neural energies, and balanced chemical function - when the physical, mental and spiritual powers are in triune harmony of development - that a maximum of light and truth can be imparted with a minimum of temporal danger or risk to the real welfare such a being. By such a balanced growth does man ascend the circles of planetary progression one by one, from the seventh to the first." (UB 1211/110:6.4)

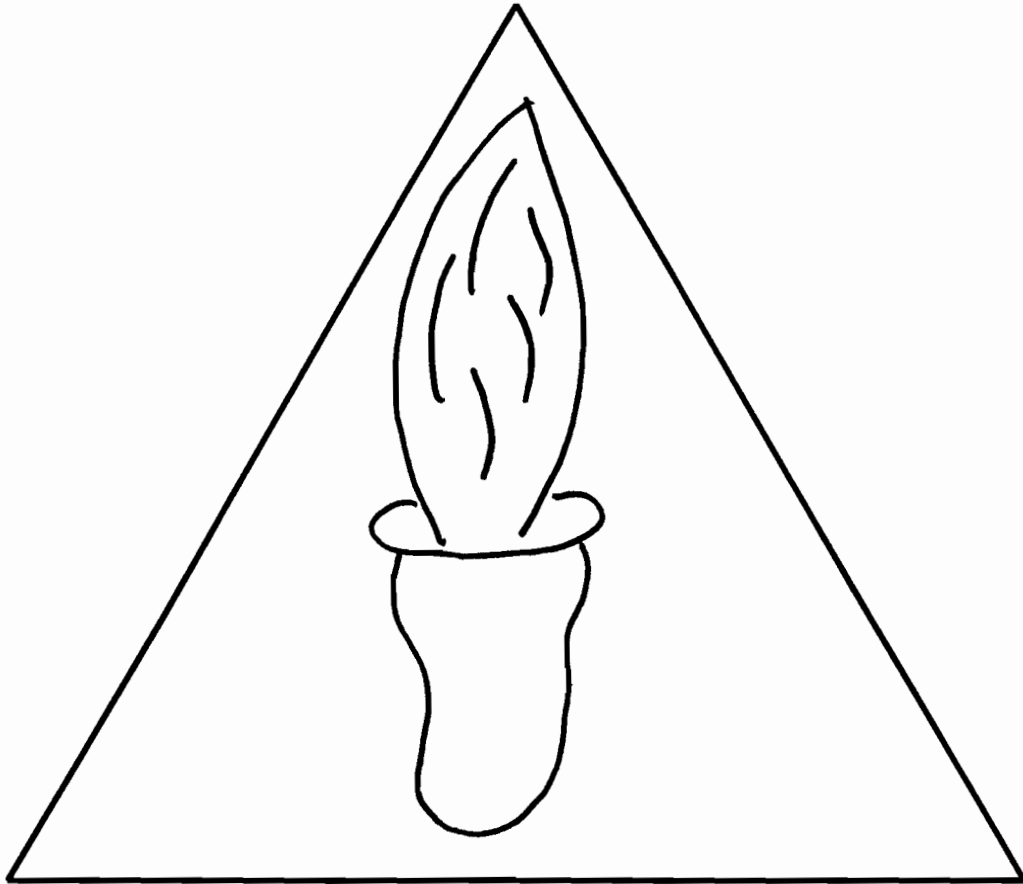
# DEVELOPMENT OF MORALITY



"All truth - material, philosophic, or spiritual - is both beautiful and good. All real beauty - material art or spiritual symmetry - is both true and good. All genuine goodness - whether personal morality, social equity, or divine ministry - is equally true and beautiful. Health, sanity, and happiness are integrations of truth, beauty, and goodness as they are blended in human experience."

"Truth is coherent, beauty attractive, goodness stabilizing. And when these values of that which is real are co-ordinated in personality experience, the result is a high order of love conditioned by wisdom and qualified by loyalty." (UB 43 / 2:7.11,12)

# PASSING ON THE CULTURAL TORCH



"Character of torchbearers. Social inheritance enables man to stand on the shoulders of all who have preceded him, and who have contributed aught to the sum of culture and knowledge. In this work of passing on the cultural torch to the next generation, the home will ever be the basic institution. The play and social life comes next, with the school last but equally indispensable in a complex and highly organized society." (910 / 81:6.23)

# The Sevens of Family Culture

Here are 7 lists made up of “7’s” which I came across as I put together this workshop.

## I. 7 FOUNDATIONAL FACTS OF FAMILY

“...the fundamental characteristics of family life and their application to the relationship existing between God and man. Jesus stated that a true family is founded on the following seven facts:” (UB 1604/142:7.5-12)

1. The fact of existence - relationship is inherent
2. Security and pleasure - true fathers provide not only for their children’s need but also for their pleasures.
3. Education and Training - wise fathers prepare children for the greater responsibilities of later life.
4. Discipline and restraint.
5. Companionship and loyalty.
6. Love and mercy.
7. Provision for the future.

## II. 7 SPIRITUAL TRUTHS from the Urantia Book Qualities of Family Relationship

- |                       |                 |          |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Fatherhood of God  | 4. Will of God  | 7. Faith |
| 2. Brotherhood of Men | 5. Love         |          |
| 3. Indwelling Spirit  | 6. Eternal Life |          |

## III. 7 CIRCLES OF FAMILIES

Conceptualized by Marvin Gawryn and Sara Blackstock

- |                     |                      |                  |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Inner Family     | 4. Work Family       | 7. Global Family |
| 2. Home Family      | 5. Fellowship Family |                  |
| 3. Community Family | 6. Interfaith Family |                  |

## IV. 7 AREAS OF FAMILY CULTURE

Building the Foundation, Cultivating the Soil, and Carrying the Torch - Sara Blackstock

1. Foundation - Endowments to and Influences in a Child’s Mind
2. Perimeters of the Garden - Parent’s Personal Loyalties and Responsibilities
3. Components of the Soil - What Children Need for Religious Growth
4. Pillar of Growth - Balanced Growth
5. Pillar of Growth - True Morality
6. Group Religious Activities - Fellowship and Community Responsibilities

## 7. Passing on the Cultural Torch

### **V. The Seven Spiritual Laws for PARENTS**

by Deepak Chopra

1. The Law of Pure Potentiality - potential seeks expression, seeks manifestation  
Everything is possible.
2. The law of giving - give that which we seek - keep the abundance of the universe circulating  
If you want something, give it.
3. The law of Karma - choose right actions - harvest the fruit  
When you make a choice, you change the future.
4. The law of least effort - flow with nature  
Don't say no - go with the flow.
5. The law of intention and desire-  
Every time you wish or want, you plant a seed.
6. The law of detachment - surrender into unknown  
Enjoy the journey.
7. The law of Dharma - service to others  
You are here for a reason.

### **VI. Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World**

Seven Necessary Skills for the Development of Capable People - Stephen Glenn

1. Identification with Viable Role Models
2. Identification with and Responsibility for "Family" Processes
3. Faith in Personal Resources to Solve Problems
4. Adequate Development of Intrapersonal Skills
5. Adequate Development of Interpersonal Skills
6. Well- Developed Situational Skills
7. Adequately Developed Judgmental Skills

### **VII. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families**

Stephen R. Covey

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Be Proactive               | 5. Seek First to Understand...Then to be Understood |
| 2. Begin with the End in Mind | 6. Synergize  |
| 3. First Thing First          | 7. Sharpen the Saw - Personal Renewal               |
| 4. Think "Win-Win"            |   |

**WE ARE FAMILY - Cultivating the Soil and Carrying the Torch for  
SPIRITUAL FAMILY CULTURE  
Sara Blackstock**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The following are just a few of the many, many excellent books which have come out over the last 10 or so years. You have your favorite also, and I would like to add them to my collection if you will tell me about them. Parents have so little time to read, so I have culled out the ones that I would call essential to any parental library.

1. POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

A warm, practical, step-by-step sourcebook for parents and teachers.  
By Jane Nelsen, ED.D Foreward by H. Stephen Glenn, Ph.D

2. YOUR CHILD'S SELF ESTEEM (Loaned the book out and don't remember the author, but easy to find by the title and is excellent from very young children on)

3. RAISING SELF-RELIANT CHILDREN In A Self-Indulgent World

Seven building blocks for developing capable young people.  
H. Stephen Glenn, Ph.D and Jane Nelsen, ED.D

4. A GOOD ENOUGH PARENT

A book on child rearing  
Bruno Bettelheim, Vantage Books, 1988

5. HOW TO TALK SO KIDS WILL LISTEN & LISTEN SO KIDS WILL TALK

Will bring about more cooperation from children than all the yelling and pleading in the world. By Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish, Avon Books

6. SIBLINGS WITHOUT RIVALRY

How to help your children live together so you can live too.  
Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish

7. THE MORAL INTELLIGENCE OF CHILDREN

How to Raise a Moral Child  
By Robert Coles Random House 1997

8. THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF CHILDREN

By Robert Coles Random House 1995

9. SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FAMILIES

By Stephen R. Covey Golden Books 1997

10. THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS FOR PARENTS

By Deepak Chopra - Harmony Books 1997

11. TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT GOD  
A Book for Families of All Faiths  
By David Heller Bantam Books 1988
12. THE BOOK OF VIRTUES  
A Treasury of Great Moral Stories  
By William J. Bennett
13. A FAMILY MEETING HANDBOOK: Achieving Family Harmony Happily  
By Robert Slagle, PH.D Good Cheer Press
14. EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
Why it can matter more than IQ  
By Daniel Goleman 1995