



## *The 12 Tasks of an Effective Father*

### Task #5—Getting Your Story Straight

#### Psalm 73:1-22

#### Questions

April 27, 2001

1. What “story” did you grow up believing? If not the Christian story, when and how did you realize your story wouldn’t work?
2. What is the “story” of the man described in Psalm 73:1-9? When it appears his story is working, what does that do to us, according to verses 10-16, 21? But what is the real outcome of his story according to verses 17-20?
3. “Human beings require stories to give meaning to the facts of their existence” writes Neil Postman. Stories exist because they have *plausibility*. A story wouldn’t work if it didn’t at least *appear* to sort out the problems of human existence (e.g., futility and happiness). Stories mentioned in this lesson include Human Progress, Technological Paradise, American Dream, the Yuppie’s Tale (Consumerism), Science (Natural Causes), Postmodernism, and Christianity. What other stories are out there?
4. Do you have your own story straight? Take this personal inventory:  
What is the Christian story? \_\_\_\_\_  
What other stories compete for my children? \_\_\_\_\_  
What are the differences between these stories? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why is the Christian story superior? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you told your children the Christian story? Have you told them that there are other “stories”? Have you explained the differences between these stories and shown them how Christianity is superior? Is there anything you need to do and, if so, what’s your next step?