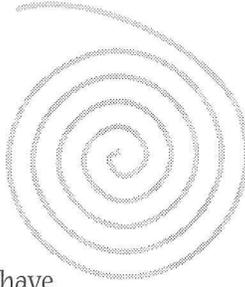


Words to Ponder

“You may have a success in life, but then just think—what kind of life was it?” said Joseph Campbell, scholar and professor of mythology. “What good was it—you’ve never done the thing you wanted to do in all your life. I always tell my students, go where your body and soul want to go. When you have the feeling, then stay with it, and don’t let anyone throw you off.”

Joseph Campbell called this sense of purpose “bliss,” and advocated that people take time to identify what their bliss is. “Follow your bliss, and don’t be afraid, and doors will open where you didn’t know they were going to be,” he said. What bliss are you following? What about your child?



talk together

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What dreams do you have for your future? For the family’s future? For our community’s future?
- Which mentors or role models who have a strong purpose in life do you admire? Why?
- If you could do only one thing with your life, what would it be? Why?

Helpful Hints

Tips that help your child find a sense of purpose:

- **Cut down on television, computer, and telephone time to give your child time to develop her or his own interests.**
- **Model having a sense of purpose. Do the things that matter to you. Contribute to the family and to the community.**
- **Compare passion lists. Have family members each write down five things they’re passionate about and then talk about them.**

More Help for Parents

Kids Who Make a Difference by Gary Chandler and Kevin Graham. This book shows young people who took up environmental causes and had success. (Published by Twenty-First Century Books.)

Final Word

“To live means to have ... a mission to fulfill—and in the measure in which we avoid setting our life to something, we make it empty.”

—José Ortega y Gasset, philosopher

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