

## Using this Guidebook

Time - I like to remind parents, including myself that God has placed our children in our homes for about eighteen years. The point of that reminder is... pace yourself. At the same time you don't want to invest in this guidebook and leave it on a shelf for 3 months. Set as a goal to work through all the steps. The goal is to be consistent rather than to get through it in 1 week. Your child will not remember every sin or every hurt and tell you about them the first time through. Reaching your child's heart will occur in layers, so be patient. Set regular times to spend with your child and keep your commitment to them. Plan to take a month or two to complete this. It could take 30 to 45 minutes, or longer to work through a step.

Copyright © - Certain Child's pages should be copied (e.g. Finding my hurts) for easier recording. Please do not copy the book for use with other children or friends. We believe each child will want their own book because of its special nature.

Receiving answers - Many times you are instructed to ask your child questions. Please receive all answers, accepting them as a gift from your child. Do not criticize, correct or disprove what they are saying. Such responses will shut your child's heart and end the process of growth immediately. You may ask them to explain their answer further but only so they can more clearly communicate their thoughts. Make sure your body language (facial expression) is accepting.

Coloring - Your child may want to trace over and color their pages in the book. This is appropriate. You may find the distraction lifts the intense focus and allows them to relax and answer more honestly and freely.

**Where we are going** - We tried to keep the teaching to a minimum. This section gives enough information for you to know the purpose and direction of each step.

**Instructions** - Each instruction is intentional so try to follow them as closely as possible. If you don't you may miss one or more of the intended benefits of that step. Of course, you know your child best and you may have to adjust them at times.

**Maturing** - The Life Model (see page 31) is used in several of the BCC counseling offices. The teaching is excellent. The topic of maturity is addressed in a practical and encouraging way. Lack of maturity has been overlooked as a major cause of personal and relational failure. This guidebook presents maturity in our own language and understanding. A more thorough understanding can be found in the Life Model and Thrive resources.

**Communicating** - Live Fully Engaged™ has a revolutionary tool for communication. It is not a book to read and digest. It is a process of connecting with people (children and spouse) that creates an experience of relational joy. It provides families with the opportunity to practice at home the communication techniques utilized by BCC counselors in their offices. More information is available on page 31.