

## Sally Clarkson

Relationships always require time, patience, and sacrifice. If you want your children to trust you, you have to choose to be available to listen. Do you need to make a choice to invest in these ways? How will you exercise time, patience, or sacrifice this month?

Read John 1:14–17. Ponder how Jesus fostered relationship with his disciples. How will you follow His lead in the following areas?

Be a listener.

Ask thoughtful questions.

Give words of life.

Have fun.

Serve and honor your children.

Do not shame your children.

Don't use guilt to bring about obedience.

Use self-control to tame your own anger.

Build up with grace.

Do your children trust that you will have gracious words no matter what they tell you? Or do they expect to be lectured, belittled, or condemned when they come to you?

How are you giving yourself grace and filling your own soul?