

Teaching Kids – God’s Way

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Our Goal in Teaching:

Ephesians 6:4 – “And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”

Instruction – putting into the mind; building inner convictions

Are you teaching your children?

Which gets more attention in the average home, discipline or teaching?

What happens if a child receives all discipline and no teaching?

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Why Do Parents Need to Teach Their Children?

Deuteronomy 4:9 – “Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.”

This passage teaches that a parent is **responsible** to God to pass on His **truth** to their children.

What is the danger of not teaching our children? (See Judges 2:6-12)

Your child isn’t naturally **wise** and we need to **instruct** them (See Proverbs 22:15)

Our goal is that they become **disciples** of Christ (See Matthew 28:19-20)

How Do Parents Teach Their Children?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

There are two parts to this passage. Before you teach your children, what are you required to do?

Is any time a bad time to teach your children? What times of teaching are mentioned here?

Following Jesus’ Ways to Teach Children

1. Question and Answer - Jesus taught by asking questions (See Matthew 16:13-17)

Parents need to help their children think through an issue biblically by asking good questions and working at helping a child to “sharpen” their answers. For example, a parent might ask these questions.

- What are some possible reasons God allowed this trial?
- What is going to happen when you have a job and don’t obey authority?
- What did your friend do to make you think that about him / her?
- What’s going to happen if you make that decision? What will happen if you don’t?

What are some additional questions you could ask that would teach your children?

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2. Using Normal Life Situations – Jesus used life situations to teach (See Mark 4:35-41; John 9:1-3)

Explain how the following situations could be used as “teaching opportunities” by a parent:

- Crises such as school problems (fights, pressures to drink or be sexually active, rebellion)
- Considering options, decisions (which college, taking a job, best use of time, places to go)
- Contentment versus complaining (handling materialism, coveting certain clothes, etc..)
- Homework and school projects
- Birth of a sibling
- Death of a loved one or a physical illness
- Handling chores around the house

3. By Your Example – Jesus left us an example (See John 13:15, 1 Peter 2:21)

The trials in your life are not only your opportunity to **grow** in Christ but also an opportunity to **teach** your children how to respond to adversity!

How would a parent’s bad example affect a child’s behavior and thinking in the following areas?

- Anger
- Giving
- Thankfulness
- Returning good for evil

Remember that Sunday School may teach your children spiritual lessons, but you are ultimately responsible for bringing your children up in the Lord!