

Teaching: Turn Your Children Around for the Better — One Step at a Time

A Biblical Teaching for Parents and Grandparents

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 22:6

Introduction

One of the greatest responsibilities God gives parents and grandparents is helping children develop godly character and spiritual maturity. In today's world, children face countless distractions, pressures, and influences that can pull them away from God's purpose for their lives. When behavioral problems arise, many adults focus only on correcting their behavior.

However, God teaches us that lasting change begins in the heart. When a child's relationship with God grows stronger, their behavior often follows.

The goal is not merely raising obedient children—it is raising disciples of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:4 (AMP)

"Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger... but rear them tenderly in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord."

This verse reveals God's pattern for parenting:

- Do not provoke.
 - Do not discourage.
 - Train with love.
 - Discipline with wisdom.
 - Point children toward Christ.
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I. Lasting Change Begins with a Relationship with God

Behavior modification alone does not transform a child.

A child may learn to obey rules while still struggling internally. God desires heart transformation.

When children develop a personal relationship with God, they begin to:

- Understand right from wrong.
- Experience conviction from the Holy Spirit.
- Develop a desire to please God.
- Build confidence in God's love.

Application

Teach your children:

- God loves them personally.
- Jesus died for them personally.
- They can talk to God anytime.
- God wants to help them every day.

A relationship with God becomes the foundation upon which all other growth is built.

II. Establish the Habit of Daily Bible Reading

God's Word renews the mind and shapes character.

Children learn values from whatever influences them most. If screens, social media, and entertainment become the primary influence, they will shape their thinking.

However, Scripture produces wisdom and godly character.

What Bible Reading Produces

- Kindness
- Patience
- Forgiveness
- Courage
- Humility
- Obedience

Practical Steps

Encourage children to:

1. Read a portion of Scripture daily.
2. Identify a character quality they discover.
3. Write down verses that stand out.
4. Discuss what they learned.

III. Teach Children the Power of Prayer

Prayer develops dependence upon God.

Children must learn that prayer is not a religious exercise but a conversation with their Heavenly Father.

Two Types of Prayer Lists

A. Personal Prayer List

Teach children to pray for:

- Wisdom
- School challenges
- Friendships
- Family concerns
- Personal growth

B. Prayer for Others

Teach them to pray for:

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Friends
- Teachers
- Church leaders
- People in need

Praying for others develops compassion and helps children move beyond self-centered thinking.

IV. Move from Information to Application

Many people know Scripture but fail to live it.

God's goal is not merely knowledge but transformation.

After reading God's Word, ask:

- What did I learn?
- What should I do differently?
- How can I apply this today?

Examples

If they read about:

Kindness

- Be kind to a sibling.

Forgiveness

- Let go of an offense.

Obedience

- Respond quickly to instruction.

Serving Others

- Help without being asked.

Application turns biblical truth into daily living.

V. Accountability Creates Consistency

Children need loving accountability.

Left alone, most children struggle to maintain consistency in spiritual habits.

Parents and grandparents should regularly ask:

- What did you read today?
- What did you learn?
- What are you praying about?
- How did you apply God's Word?

Accountability is not about control.

It is about encouragement, guidance, and helping children remain faithful.

VI. The Importance of Modeling Christ-Like Behavior

Children learn more from what they see than from what they hear.

Parents cannot effectively teach what they refuse to practice.

Children should see:

- Forgiveness in action.
- Patience under pressure.
- Faith during challenges.
- Prayer during difficult times.
- Love expressed daily.

Paul said:

"Follow me as I follow Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Children should be able to observe Christianity lived out in the home.

VII. Putting God First Each Day

One practical principle found in this material is helping children prioritize God before other activities.

Many families struggle because God becomes an afterthought rather than the first thought.

A useful family principle is:

God Before Entertainment

Before:

- Television
- Video games
- Phones
- Social media

Encourage children to spend time:

- Reading Scripture
- Praying
- Reflecting on God's Word

This teaches an important lesson:

God comes first.

VIII. Trust God to Direct Their Path

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

When children learn to seek God first:

- Their decisions improve.
- Their attitudes improve.
- Their confidence grows.
- Their direction becomes clearer.

Starting the day with God establishes a spiritual foundation for everything that follows.

IX. The Role of Grandparents

Grandparents are a tremendous gift from God.

They provide:

- Wisdom
- Encouragement
- Stability
- Experience
- Spiritual support

Grandparents can help by:

- Praying with grandchildren.
- Sharing testimonies.
- Reinforcing biblical principles.
- Encouraging consistency.
- Providing loving accountability.

When parents and grandparents work together, children benefit from multiple generations of spiritual influence.

Conclusion

Turning a child's life around is rarely accomplished overnight.

It happens one day at a time.

One prayer at a time.

One Scripture at a time.

One act of obedience at a time.

As families focus on:

1. Relationship with God
2. Bible Reading
3. Prayer
4. Application
5. Accountability

they create an atmosphere where children can grow spiritually, emotionally, and morally.

Remember the promise of Scripture:

Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

God has entrusted us with the privilege of shaping the next generation. Through patience, consistency, prayer, and the power of God's Word, we can help turn our children's lives around for the better—one step at a time.

[Click here.](#) **Main resource.**