

Teaching: Four Questions Every Parent Should Ask Their Children

A Biblical Teaching on Guiding Children Through Life's Challenges

Key Thought:

One of the greatest responsibilities God has given parents is to help their children navigate temptation, avoid traps, renew their minds, and overcome struggles. Rather than reacting with fear or frustration, parents are called to walk alongside their children with wisdom, love, and God's Word.

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

The following four questions can open the door to meaningful conversations and spiritual growth in the lives of our children.

Introduction

Many parents ask:

- How do I know what my child is going through?
- How can I help them before problems become serious?
- How can I keep communication open?

Children often face battles they don't know how to explain. They encounter temptations, emotional struggles, wrong influences, and confusing thoughts. A wise parent creates an environment where children feel safe discussing these challenges.

The goal is not to interrogate our children but to disciple them.

Question 1: What Is the Devil Tempting You With?

"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." — James 1:14

Temptation is not sin; yielding to temptation is where trouble begins.

Children today face temptations from:

- Friends
- Social media
- Entertainment
- Peer pressure
- Pride
- Anger
- Dishonesty
- Laziness

When parents ask this question, they help children recognize the enemy's strategies.

Teaching Point

Help children understand:

- Everyone faces temptation.
- Jesus was tempted.
- They are not alone.
- God always provides a way of escape.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful..."

1 Corinthians 10:13

Discussion Questions

- What situations make it hard for you to do, what's right?
 - What pressures are you feeling?
 - How can we pray together about this?
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Question 2: Are You Mixed Up in Some Type of Trap?

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..." — John 10:10

The enemy often begins with temptation and then creates traps.

Examples of traps:

- Wrong friendships
- Secret habits
- Internet addictions
- Dishonesty
- Bitterness
- Unforgiveness
- Compromise

Children sometimes get trapped before they realize what is happening.

Teaching Point

Parents should help children identify warning signs:

- Hiding things
- Feeling stuck
- Constant guilt
- Fear of being discovered
- Loss of peace

God's Word brings freedom.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." — John 8:32

Application

Teach children that asking for help is not weakness.

Freedom begins when darkness is brought into the light.

Question 3: How Is Your Thought Life?

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." — Proverbs 23:7

The battle for a child's future often begins in their mind.

Children may struggle with thoughts such as:

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Rejection
- Anger
- Insecurity
- Doubt
- Low self-worth

Parents often focus on behavior while God focuses on the heart and mind.

Teaching Point

Ask questions like:

- What have you been thinking about lately?
- What worries you?
- What makes you afraid?
- What thoughts keep coming back?

Help children compare their thoughts with God's Word.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God..." — 2 Corinthians 10:5

Practical Steps

Teach them to:

1. Identify wrong thoughts.
2. Replace them with Scripture.
3. Speak God's promises aloud.
4. Pray immediately when negative thoughts arise.

Question 4: What Are Your Struggles?

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2

Every child has struggles.

Some struggle with:

- School
- Friendships
- Confidence
- Obedience
- Fear
- Anger
- Identity
- Spiritual growth

Parents must become safe people for their children.

Teaching Point

Children should know:

- They can talk honestly.
- They will not be condemned.
- Their parents are willing to help.
- God has answers for every struggle.

Many children hide struggles because they fear disappointing their parents.

A loving response opens the door for healing and growth.

The Parent's Response

When your children share their battles:

Don't Panic

Fear often shuts down communication.

Don't Condemn

Correction without love creates distance.

Listen Carefully

Children often reveal more when they know they are being heard.

Use God's Word

God's Word provides wisdom and direction for every challenge.

Pray Together

Prayer invites God's power into the situation.

Walk Through the Process

Growth takes time.

Parents are called to coach, guide, encourage, and disciple.

God's Pattern for Parenting

When children face:

- Temptations
- Enemy traps
- Wrong thoughts
- Personal struggles

Our role is to help them overcome through God's Word rather than merely punish behaviors.

"These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children..." — Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Conclusion

These four questions can create life-changing conversations:

1. **What is the devil tempting you with?**
2. **Are you mixed up in some type of trap?**
3. **How is your thought life?**
4. **What are your struggles?**

As parents, our goal is not simply to raise obedient children but to develop spiritually strong disciples who know how to overcome life's challenges through God's Word.

Remember: When children encounter difficulties, don't panic. Walk with them through God's Word, pray with them, encourage them, and help them become overcomers through Christ.

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." — Romans 8:37

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