

Teaching: The Importance of Training Children in God's Word

Building a Legacy of Faith for Future Generations

Key Scriptures: Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Introduction

One of the greatest responsibilities God gives to parents and guardians is the privilege of raising children. While providing food, shelter, education, and protection is important, God places a special emphasis on training children spiritually.

The future of a family, a church, and even a nation is greatly influenced by how children are taught and guided.

The Bible teaches that children are not only a blessing from God but also a sacred trust. The values, beliefs, and habits established in childhood often shape the course of an entire life. Therefore, parents are called to intentionally train their children in God's Word and ways.

I. Training Children Is a Biblical Command

Proverbs 22:6 (AMP)

"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."

This verse reveals several important truths:

A. Training Requires Intentionality

Children do not automatically develop godly character. Training involves instruction, correction, encouragement, and example.

B. Every Child Is Unique

God created each child with unique gifts, personalities, and callings. Wise parents learn to recognize those differences and guide each child according to God's purpose for their life.

C. Early Training Produces Lasting Results

The seeds planted in childhood often remain throughout adulthood. While children must eventually make their own choices, biblical training provides a strong foundation that can guide them throughout life.

Application Questions:

- Am I intentionally training my children or merely raising them?
- Do I understand the unique gifts and personality God has given each child?

II. God's Word Must Be Woven into Daily Life

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

God instructed Israel not merely to know His Word but to teach it diligently to their children.

Notice when instruction was to occur:

- When sitting at home
- When walking along the way
- When lying down
- When rising up

God's plan was never for spiritual training to happen only during church services. It is meant to become part of everyday life.

A. Faith Is Caught as Well as Taught

Children learn by observation.

They watch:

- How we respond to problems
- How we treat people
- How we handle disappointments
- How we pray
- How we value God's Word

The home should become a living classroom where children see biblical principles demonstrated daily.

B. Consistency Builds Conviction

Occasional spiritual conversations rarely produce lasting transformation. Consistent exposure to God's truth helps children develop deep convictions that can withstand life's pressures.

III. Passing God's Truth to the Next Generation

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

Moses instructed the people to set their hearts on God's Word and teach it to their children because it was "their very life."

A. God's Word Is Not Optional

The Bible is not merely a collection of good ideas. It contains God's wisdom for living successfully and walking in His will.

B. Every Generation Must Receive the Truth

Faith cannot survive on inheritance alone. Each generation must be taught, challenged, and encouraged to embrace God's truth for themselves.

C. Parents Are Kingdom Builders

When parents train their children in God's Word, they are helping advance God's Kingdom beyond their own lifetime. Their influence can impact generations yet unborn.

IV. The Important Role of Parents and Grandparents

The responsibility for spiritual development extends beyond parents.

Scripture shows the importance of:

- Parents
- Grandparents
- Extended family
- Spiritual mentors
- Church leaders

Children benefit when multiple godly influences work together to reinforce biblical truth.

A. Children Are a Blessing

God celebrates children as gifts and blessings.

B. Children Are Also a Responsibility

Parents must not neglect their spiritual development. Without godly instruction, children become vulnerable to worldly influences and deception.

V. Start Early for Maximum Impact

One of the greatest principles in child development is this:

The earlier the training, the deeper the impact.

The formative years shape:

- Character
- Values
- Beliefs
- Habits
- Decision-making patterns

Children who learn God's Word early often possess greater wisdom and discernment as they mature.

Benefits of Early Spiritual Training

- Strong moral foundation
- Better decision-making
- Greater resistance to temptation
- Increased understanding of God's love
- Fewer regrets and harmful life choices

Teaching children early helps prepare them for the challenges they will inevitably face.

VI. Overcoming Challenges in Raising Godly Children

Every parent encounters obstacles.

Some common challenges include:

- Resistance from children
- Cultural pressures
- Busyness
- Personal shortcomings
- Negative influences

However, God provides resources for success.

A. Depend on Prayer

Prayer invites God's wisdom, protection, and guidance into the parenting process.

B. Rely on God's Word

The Bible provides answers for every season of parenting.

C. Seek Support from the Body of Christ

God never intended parents to raise children alone. Healthy churches and faith communities provide encouragement, accountability, and assistance.

VII. The Power of Example

One of the most powerful teaching tools is personal example.
Children often remember what parents do more than what they say.

Model:

- Love
- Patience
- Humility
- Integrity
- Forgiveness
- Faithfulness

When children see authentic Christianity lived out at home, biblical truths move from information to transformation.

Paul's Principle

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

Godly example remains one of the strongest influences in shaping a child's heart.

VIII. The Eternal Significance of Spiritual Training

The ultimate goal is not simply raising well-behaved children.

The goal is raising children who:

- Love God
- Know His Word
- Follow His Spirit
- Serve others
- Advance His Kingdom

God's Word brings life, wisdom, hope, and eternal perspective. Parents who invest in the spiritual development of their children are planting seeds that can bear fruit for generations.

Conclusion

Training children in God's Word is one of the most important assignments God gives to parents and guardians. It requires commitment, consistency, prayer, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

By teaching biblical truth, modeling godly character, and creating a home centered on God's presence, parents establish a foundation that can guide their children throughout their lives.

The investment may require sacrifice today, but the rewards extend far beyond this generation. As faithful parents sow God's truth into the hearts of their children, they leave a legacy of faith that can impact families, communities, and generations to come.

Key Takeaways

1. Training children is a biblical command.
2. God's Word should be integrated into daily life.
3. Parents and grandparents share responsibility for spiritual training.
4. Early instruction produces lifelong benefits.
5. Prayer, example, and consistency are essential.
6. The goal is not merely good behavior but a transformed heart.
7. A godly legacy can influence generations.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:6 (AMP) – *"Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it."*

[Click here.](#) Main resource.