

Turn your children's lives around for the better—one step at a time (Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

Hello everyone!

If you're a father (or even a grandparent) looking for some guidance on how to help your kids with behavioral challenges, this one's for you. It's all about teamwork and building strong foundations at home.

Here's a verse to kick things off:

Ephesians 6:4 (AMP)

“Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.”

The idea is to approach parenting with love and patience while guiding your kids toward a life centered on God.

Five Key Goals:

- 1. Relationship with God** – Help your kids grow in their faith.
- 2. Bible Reading** – Encourage them to dive into Scripture regularly.
- 3. Prayer** – Teach them the importance of talking to God about their lives and others.
- 4. Application** – Help them apply what they learn to real-life situations.
- 5. Accountability** – Be there to guide and check in with them.

Steps to Work Through with Each Child:

- **Build Their Relationship with God:** Teach them about God's love and how to trust Him.
- **Christ-like Behavior:** Encourage kindness, patience, and forgiveness—qualities that reflect Jesus.
- **Bible Reading:** Make it fun by exploring stories and finding lessons together.
- **Write It Down:** Have them jot down things they learn or verses that stand out.
- **Study Further:** Use tools like a concordance (if available) to dig deeper into the Word.
- **Pray for Themselves:** Help them create a prayer list for their own needs and goals.
- **Pray for Others:** Teach them to think about and pray for friends, family, or even strangers.
- **Take Action:** Encourage them to apply what they learn in small, practical ways.
- **Stay Accountable:** As the parent or guardian, check in regularly to see how they're doing.

Motivational Tip:

Here's a simple idea: tie their screen time (or other privileges) to their devotional time.

Before hopping on their devices, they should spend some time working through the **five objectives mentioned above**.

Once they've genuinely completed their devotional time (you'll know if it's sincere), you can reward them with device time or whatever motivates them most.

Why Start the Day with Jesus?

When kids start their day focusing on God, it sets the tone for everything else. It's like laying down a straight path for them to walk on.

Here's a verse to remind you of this:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (RSV)

"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."

This journey isn't just about helping your kids—it's about growing up together as a family.

Take it one step at a time, and remember, God will help you.

Perspective #2

Turning Them Around: A Guide for Fathers and Grandparents to Address Behavioral Challenges in Children**

Parenting is a journey filled with joys and challenges, particularly when it comes to managing behavioral issues in children.

Fathers, as well as grandparents, play a pivotal role in guiding and nurturing children to develop positive habits and attitudes.

This material serves as a resource for fathers and grandparents to work together **as a team**, using biblical principles and practical strategies to foster a Christ-centered environment in the home.

Foundational Scripture: Ephesians 6:4

The Bible provides timeless wisdom for parenting. Ephesians 6:4 (AMP) states:

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

This verse reminds us of the importance of nurturing children with love, discipline, and spiritual guidance.

It emphasizes avoiding actions that lead to frustration or resentment in children while prioritizing their spiritual growth and development.

Five Core Objectives for Spiritual Growth

To address behavioral challenges effectively, it is essential to focus on building a strong spiritual foundation.

The following five objectives can serve as a framework:

1. Relationship with God

Encourage children to cultivate a personal relationship with God. This connection forms the cornerstone of their moral and spiritual compass.

2. Bible Reading

Introduce regular Bible reading as a habit. By exploring Scripture, children can learn about character qualities such as kindness, patience, and humility.

3. Prayer

Teach children the importance of prayer. This includes praying for their own needs and interceding for others.

4. Application

Guide children in applying biblical principles to their daily lives. This helps them internalize what they learn and make meaningful changes in their behavior.

5. Accountability

Establish **accountability structures** within the family.

Fathers or guardians should take responsibility for monitoring progress and providing encouragement.

Steps to Implement Spiritual Practices

To achieve these objectives, consider the following practical steps tailored to each child's needs:

1. Foster a Relationship with God

Help children understand God's love and character through **age-appropriate discussions**, stories, and activities.

Encourage them to see God as their heavenly Father who cares deeply for them.

2. Promote Christ-like Behavior

Model Christ-like behavior in your own actions.

Children are more likely to emulate positive behaviors when they witness them firsthand in their **parents** or **guardians**.

3. Encourage Bible Reading

Provide each child with a Bible suited to their age group.

Guide them in discovering character qualities such as forgiveness, courage, and obedience through specific passages.

Use tools like a concordance (if available) to help them find related scriptures.

4. Document Discoveries

Encourage children to write down their reflections and lessons learned from Bible reading. This practice reinforces understanding and creates a record of their spiritual growth.

5. Enhance Bible Study

Teach children how to study the Bible by exploring related scriptures that deepen their understanding of key themes. This approach makes Bible reading more engaging and meaningful.

6. Incorporate Prayer Lists

Help children create **two prayer lists**: one for their personal needs and one for others (e.g., family members, friends, or community concerns). This practice fosters empathy and a sense of responsibility.

7. Take Steps of Application

Encourage each child to identify one actionable step based on what they've learned from Scripture.

For example, if they study kindness, they can practice being kind to siblings or friends.

8. Establish Accountability

Fathers or designated guardians should regularly check in with each child to discuss their progress. This accountability ensures sincerity and consistency in their spiritual practices.

Motivation Through Rewards

Motivating children to engage in these spiritual practices can be challenging but rewarding.

One effective method is **tying device usage** (e.g., smartphones, tablets) to their **completion** of devotional activities:

- Earn Device Time

Before using their devices, children must dedicate time to the **five core objectives** outlined above.

This system encourages discipline and prioritization of spiritual growth.

- Check-In with the Head of the Home

The father or guardian should verify that devotional time has been completed with **sincerity before granting device privileges**.

The amount of device time can be determined at the discretion of the head of the home.

This approach not only motivates children but also reinforces the importance of putting God first in their lives.

The Importance of Starting the Day with God

Beginning each day with God sets the tone for success and spiritual alignment.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (RSV) offers valuable guidance:

"5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

When children start their mornings by seeking God through prayer, Bible reading, and reflection, they are better equipped to navigate challenges throughout the day.

This practice fosters a sense of peace, purpose, and direction.

A Team Effort: Fathers and Grandparents

Addressing behavioral challenges is not solely the responsibility of fathers; grandparents can also play a vital role in supporting this journey.

By working together as a team, families can create a unified approach to nurturing children's spiritual growth.

Grandparents can:

- Share their wisdom and experiences.
- Encourage grandchildren to stay committed to their spiritual practices.
- Provide additional accountability and support when needed.

Conclusion

Raising children in today's world comes with its share of difficulties, but with intentional effort and reliance on biblical principles, fathers and grandparents can guide them toward positive behavior and spiritual maturity.

By focusing on building a relationship with God, encouraging Bible reading, fostering prayer habits, promoting application of biblical truths, and establishing accountability, families can create an environment where children thrive both spiritually and emotionally.

Remember, change takes time, patience, and perseverance.

With God at the **center** of your efforts, you can help **turn your children's lives around** for the better—**one step at a time**.

As **Proverbs 22:6** remind us:

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

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