

Parenting According to the Bible
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Teaching and Training (Part 2 of 2)

1.5 – 4 Years

Establishing your authority as a parent

What “No” means

The authority of God

The love of parents 2 Cor.12.15a

Teaching God as Creator Romans 1.20; Job 38.12,31;38.19-21

Establishing that the child is not the center of the family, nor are you; this family is run based on God’s will and teachings

The love of God James 1.17

How to interact with siblings

Have few rules, be sure each is understood clearly

Be consistent in rules and enforcing them Ephesians 6.1

The basics of the Gospel Romans 3.23

Why: teach also at the level of the motives, the reasons behind the actions

5 – 9 Years

More details of sin and the Gospel John 3.16; Titus 2.14

Respecting others who are in authority

Have fun times together; this balances everything else and is a great time to build relationships and love, which opens the door to the times of teaching with that same heart of love 1 Peter 1.22; Mark 10.43-45; John 13.34-35

God as One who answers prayer for help in resisting sin Hebrews 4.15-16

Get to know each child as an individual: each one is not you, nor are they their sibling Psalm 139.1-4

Understand the thinking and desires of each and teach truth that applies to them; further, do so in a manner that works best with them

Basic Bible studies that address life issues Colossians 3.23; Ephesians 4.32; Proverbs 13.20; Proverbs 9.10

Interacting with other children 1 John 4.7

Choosing right for the purpose of honoring God 1 John 5.3

Memorizing key verses about love, obedience and who God is: as a family, as the basis for family life Philippians 2.3-4; John 14.15; Titus 3.8

Motives of the heart: the desires behind the words and actions Proverbs 20.5; Romans 14.7-8

10-13 Years

Personal Bible study with application

Teaching that is less formal and more discussion oriented, real life issues-based and seeks as the conclusion for all involved to interact with God rather than repeat back desired answers is most effective James 1.22-25; Matthew 7.24-27

Testing character by giving limited freedom and observing response

God as more than the Creator, but One to know, communicate with and relate to individually Psalm 62.8; 2 Corinthians 12.9-10; Galatians 2.20

Parents must show themselves to be sinners saved by grace and seeking to become more like Christ by growing in their own putting off of sin and putting on of righteousness Ephesians 4.22-24; Philippians 3.10-14

Plan with your spouse what you believe are important principles of the Word and how they apply to busyness of schedule / sports or school involvement / family nights together / how many nights can be spent with friends / intensity of studying / church involvement and so on, then begin to teach these things to your children Philippians 1.2-21; 2 Timothy 3.16-17; 1 John 2.15-17; Romans 14.22-23

Discuss real life situations from your children's lives and how the principles of the Word apply Psalm 119.15-16,67,71; Galatians 1.10; 2 Corinthians 10.18; Proverbs 23.4-5

Family Bible studies can include deeper and more open discussions about battling temptation and how to become a doer of the Word Proverbs 16.20; Psalm 119.9-11; Colossians 3.9-12

How Scripture addresses real life, world and some adult matters Psalm 119.50,56-57; 1 Corinthians 9.16

14-18 Years

More advanced Bible study

Study the same passage together and then have each person discuss openly how the truth applies to them; encourage pursuit of living out the truths of the Word 1 Peter 2.1-3; Hebrews 4.12-13; Luke 6.46

Earned freedom based on responsibility

Most children do not like to communicate as much with their parents at this age; most do not know how; and yet these can be some of the greatest years of close and deep communication for the parent who initiates it, listens well, expresses genuine Christlike love, isn't obsessed with judging the outward but wants to know the desires / fears / motives of the heart 1 Peter 4.10-11; Deut. 6.4-9; Proverbs 20.5; Romans 14.22-23

The biblical idea of training (Greek "gumnazo," 1 Timothy 4.7-8, Hebrews 5.4 and 12.11) is to practice how to respond to game situations, to train the mind and body; as parents we must have long walks together and extended time alone with our children so they can tell us about their lives and circumstances—then we can study and answer the question, "what do the Scriptures say about that?" and help them consider how to apply the truths in their lives

More than ever, parents who are examples of changing to become better doers of the Word are tools in God's Hand to impact their children Proverbs 14.26; Titus 2.7; 2 Timothy 2.21-22

Teach about finances, cars, decision making, work Proverbs 23.4-5; Romans 14.22-23; Colossians 3.23

Do so by exposing your children to real things, real people, real problems

19+ Years

As with each age group, the scope of teaching and training expands

As much as ever, this age group needs a parent they can talk to about struggles with sin, decisions, ideas and walking with God Philemon 1.7; Proverbs 27.17

The goal is not that they become a copy of you, but that they learn to stand alone with Christ in this world, evaluating how the Word applies to their life and living accordingly Psalm 1.2-3