

USING THE BIBLE TO PARENT

Colossians 3:20-21

YOUR MISSION IS FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO LOVE GOD.

¹² *What does the Lord your God want from you? The Lord wants you to respect and follow him, to love and serve him with all your heart and soul. Deuteronomy 10:12 (CEV)*

³⁷ *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* ³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.'* Matthew 22:37-38 (NIV)

1. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD'S WORD.

⁴ *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

⁵ *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

⁶ *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

⁷ *Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NIV)*

2. ACKNOWLEDGE EACH CHILD'S UNIQUENESS.

⁶ *Give a child training suitable to his character and, even when old, he will not go back on it. Proverbs 22:6 (NJB)*

3. GIVE YOUR CHILDREN STABILITY.

a. BE THE PARENT.

¹⁴ *Parents are supposed to take care of their children. 2 Corinthians 12:14 (CEV)*

³ *He did all the same sins his father before him had done. Abijah was not faithful to the Lord his God as David, his great-grandfather, had been. 1 Kings 15:3 (NCV)*

b. BE A TEAM.

²⁰ *Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20 (NIV)*

c. ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE CONSISTENT BOUNDRIES.

¹² *The Lord corrects those he loves, just as parents correct the child they delight in. Proverbs 3:12 (NCV)*

¹⁸ *Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn; indulging them destroys them. Proverbs 19:18 (TEV/MSG)*

¹⁵ *Correction and discipline are good for children. If they have their own way, they will make their mothers ashamed of them. Proverbs 29:15 (TEV)*

²¹ *Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. Colossians 3:21 (NIV)*

¹³ *As parents feel for their children, God feels for those who fear him. Psalms 103:13 (MSG)*

4. BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT CHARACTER.

⁷ *The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them. Proverbs 20:7 (NLT)*

a. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY; IT'S WHAT YOU DO.

²⁸ *"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'* ²⁹ *"I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" Matthew 21:28-32 (NIV)*

b. SERVICE TO OTHERS MATTERS.

³⁵ *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* ³⁷ *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we (do this)?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these ..., you did for me.'* Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

5. PRAY.

² *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

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Discussion Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 10:12 and Matthew 22:37-38. If you model these two verses for your children, what impact will it have on their lives? With God? With you? With significant people in their lives? With strangers? With their purpose in life?
2. What lessons are your children learning from watching you? Which area of personal behavior will you make significant effort to change in the next 30 days?
3. To whom are we tempted to abdicate our spiritual responsibility for teaching our children? What are the results if we do?
4. What are some examples of living out these verses?
5. What gifts of uniqueness do you see in your children? Which would be most suitable for her to develop?
6. What three things are you willing to do in the next thirty days that will improve your relationship with your children?
7. Think about Ron and Janet's testimony? What do you need to do to be a better team?
8. Read the verses in section 3c (Establish Consistent Boundaries). Which of these verses do you most need this week? How will you use it?
9. What are you doing to intentionally teach your children service?
10. Pray for your children and the children of others in your study group.