

## ESSENTIAL THINGS YOU MUST TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

(Most Asked Questions #6)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

There are many important things to do in life. One of the most important is for parents to raise their children in the “training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph 6:4) Our children cannot raise themselves, they must be guided along by a mom and dad. This is God’s plan for the family.

Before we look at some essentials, it is important for us to remember a couple of things:

1. Your children are not yours, they belong to the Lord, yet you have the authority over them to discharge the duty God has given you. You function as God’s agents.
2. Authority best describes the relationship parents have with children. The best description of the activity of parent with the child is shepherding. Parenting is shepherding the heart of your children in the ways of God. The heart of your children is the issue, not their behavior. (Proverbs 4:23)
3. The Bible gives us all that we need to be equipped for the task of parenting.
4. Most of life’s essentials are caught, not taught. If you live these things out before your children they will imitate your life...but if you say one thing and live differently, they will never follow your words.

### THREE CATAGORIES OF INSTRUCTION PROVIDING YOU WITH AN ESSENTIAL CURRICULUM FOR YOUR CHILDREN. “J-O-Y”

#### I. Jesus: “J” You Must Lead Your Children To Jesus As Their Savior and Lord.

They must learn “to love the Lord with all their hearts.”

- A. They must know that the Bible is God’s Word. Read it to them early, constantly point to it...
- B. They must understand that God is Creator...and they are His creation...and accountable to Him. Their chief end is to glorify God, and that they were made “for His pleasure.”
- C. They need to learn that they were born a sinner, and have a rebel-heart against God. You need to help them know not only “what” they did was wrong, but “why.” (indwelling sin...) That sin leads to death and judgment. (Romans 6:23) Heaven and hell...
- D. They need to know of God’s great love...He provided for our sin. Jesus. Sin must be confessed and repented of and Jesus must be received as Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9-10)
- E. If they trust in Christ, then God calls them to obedience... they must live for Him, not self! (Romans 12:1)
- F. Teach them of the joy of attending church. Be faithful your attendance and bring them weekly.

**II. Others: “O” You Must Teach Them To Love All Others.**

They must learn “to love their neighbor as themselves”

- A. They were not born neutral, but utterly self-centered. (Eph 2:1-4) Soon they realize this... Help them to think of others first, and to deny themselves. Sharing, etc.
- B. You must insist that they obey you, as this is God’s will and protection for them. Remind them that God has given you the task of raising them, and that you must do so as God will hold you accountable. Along this line, your discipline of them must never be punitive, but must be corrective. You must focus on the attitudes of their hearts...  
The moments after disciplining your child is a great teaching moment.
- C. Teach them to pray for others and their needs. Pray with them about “Tommy or Mary...”
- D. Encourage them to be witnesses of Jesus to their friends, and family.  
“A child shall lead them” Many times God uses our little ones to reach others.
- E. Teach them how to respond to those who hurt them with their words and actions.

**III. You: “Y” You Must Shepherd Them To Live Their Life Wisely.**

They must learn how to navigate through life and do so with wisdom.

- A. Teach the value of discipline, hard work, self-denial, and servant hood.
- B. Teach the value of resisting sin and the temptations of this evil world.  
“Sowing and reaping”  
This world is a dangerous place, and so they need to keep their eyes fix on Jesus.
- C. Teach of their special, God-given uniqueness. Help them find their place.
- D. Teach them to be givers...to God first...to those who have need.  
“More blessed to give than to receive...”
- E. Teach them to really live life to the max...to do so pleases the Lord. (Ecclesiastes)
- F. Teach them to love others freely, without strings nor manipulation.

**LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**

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