



Parenting

What do parents desire for their children?

- To be **happy**
- To be **healthy**
- To be **stable** (life and finances)
- To be **loved**
- To find a **satisfying** career

As parents, we often focus our time on training our kids to accomplish things that **will not last**.

²⁰ It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River. ²¹ Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ ²² Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. ²⁴ He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.” **Joshua 4:20-24 NLT**

The two most important things we can teach our children are the mighty **power** of the Lord and the **fear** of the Lord.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” **John 14:15 NLT**

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? **Psalms 8:3-4 ESV**

Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. **Proverbs 3:7 NLT**

Being the spiritual leader in your child’s life is **your** responsibility.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4 NLT**

As parents we need to make the most of the **moments** God has given us.

The moments you have with your kids include **teachable** and **monumental** moments. In those moments...

- Set an example through your **actions**.

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. **Matthew 5:16 NLT**

- Weave the **gospel** into your conversation.

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. **1 Peter 3:15 NLT**

- Practice **discipline** when it’s needed.

Discipline your children while there is hope. Otherwise you will ruin their lives. **Proverbs 19:18 NLT**

Next Steps:

- **Begin living out your faith in front of your children.**
- **Set aside one night a week to pray with and talk to your children about Jesus.**
- **Begin investing in the next generation by serving.**