

To Love Their Children



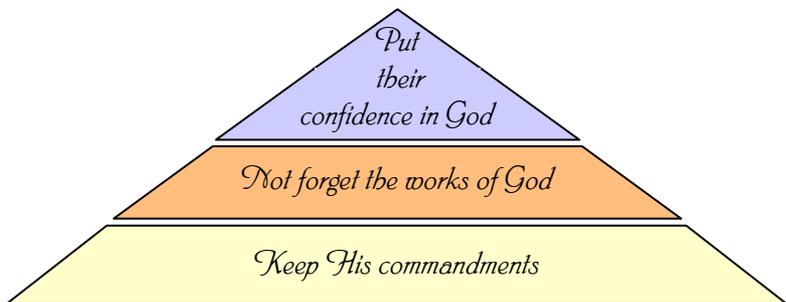
TRAINING WITH DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD

INTRODUCTION: PARENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILD REARING:

1. Know what God has commanded in His Word regarding parenting.
2. Trust God to give you the strength and wisdom to obey His Word.
3. Expect opposition from others and especially from your own heart.
4. Resolve that you will not seek alternatives to God's way as given in His Word.

BIBLICAL GOALS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

*That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should **put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments** (Psalm 78:6-7).*



Question 1: How can I train my child so that he will not forget the works of God?

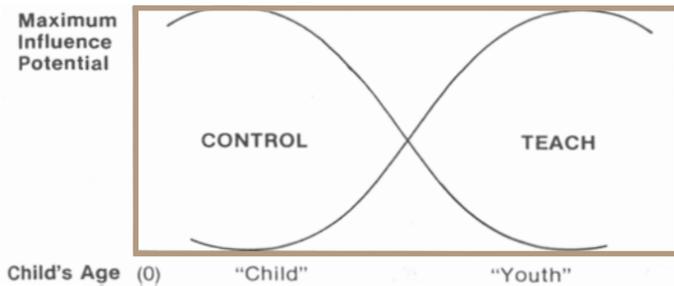


Answer: Give him a Biblical understanding of God.

- I. **Acknowledge that my child belongs to God.**
- II. **Provide a non-verbal, experiential model of God's character and attributes**
- III. **Provide verbal, spontaneous and planned teaching about God.**
 - I. Parents must acknowledge that their child belongs to God.
 - A. God creates children and then entrusts parents to train them for His glory.
 - B. God creates each child uniquely for His purposes.
 - II. Parents must provide a non-verbal, experiential model of God's character and attributes.
 - A. God is the provider (Matthew 7:11)
 - B. God is the comforter (Isaiah 66:13)
 - C. God is the kind, loving, longsuffering father (Psalm 117:2)
 - III. Parents must provide verbal spontaneous and planned teaching about God and His works.
 - A. Spontaneous teaching about God and His works.
 1. References to God as the creator, provider, sustainer.
 2. Songs and poems about God and His Word.
 3. Short prayers of thanksgiving and petition to God.
 - B. Planned teaching about God and His works
 1. Teach them the works of God during the reading of Bible stories and family devotions.

2. Teach them the works of God through Scripture memorization.
3. Teach them the works and character of God as you daily reprove, rebuke, and exhort them to live righteously.

Preach (teach) the word: be ready in season and out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction (II Timothy 4:2).

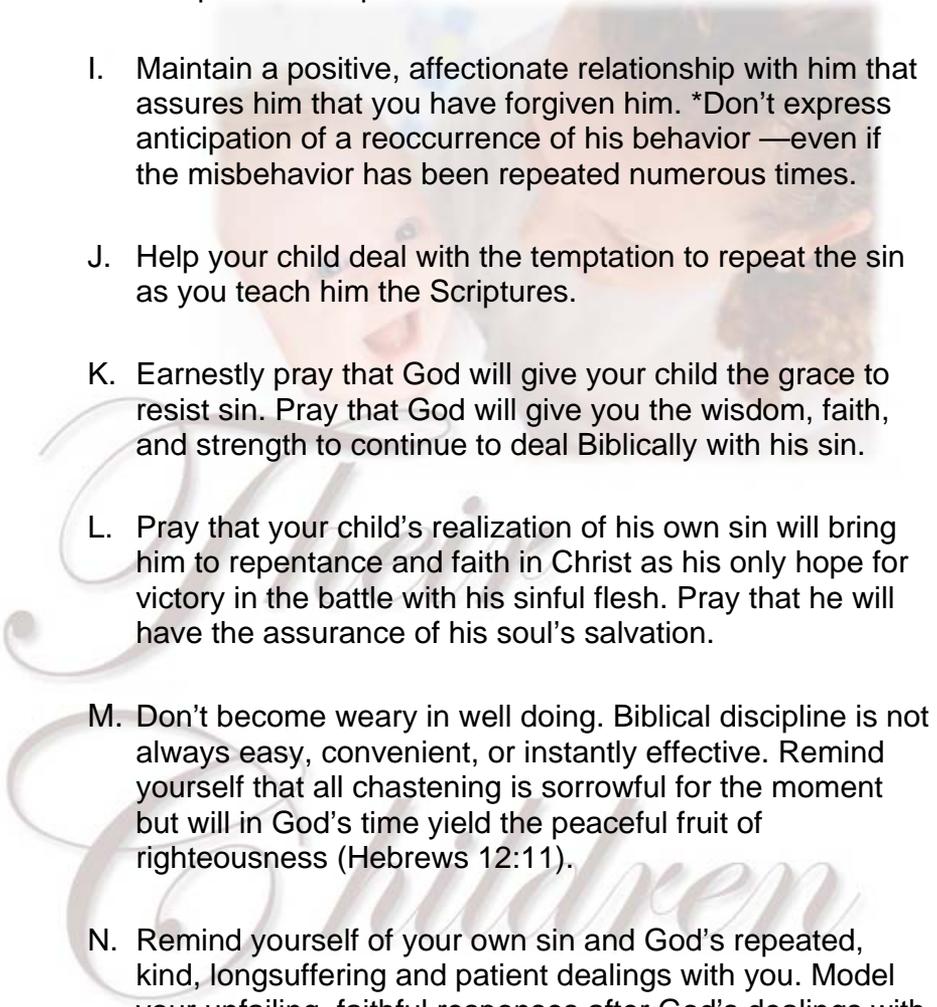


Question: How can I train my child so that he keeps God's commandments?

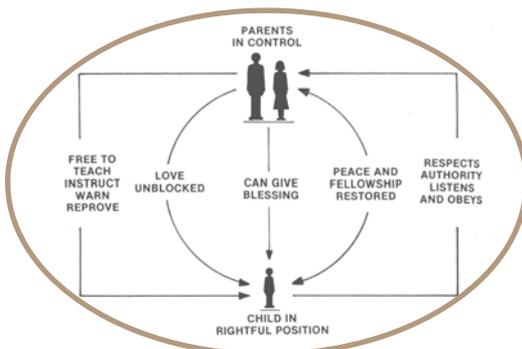
Answer: Give him a Biblical understanding of himself.

- I. Teach him that he is a sinner and under the penalty of death without Christ.
- II. Teach him through the use of the rod and reproof that he cannot keep the law of God and needs a Savior to deliver him from his sin.
- III. Teach him through the use of rebuke and exhortation that to keep God's commandments he will need to continue to submit his will to God's will and learn to identify and resist the allurements of the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- IV. Teach him that he will remain in the battle with his sinful flesh until he is glorified.

- I. We must understand and communicate to our children that they are sinners and under the penalty of death without Christ.
 - A. They are sinners at birth and will increasingly manifest the foolishness that is bound in their hearts (Proverbs 22:15) by expressing rebellion against the demands of their parents and other authorities.
 - B. Their rebellion against their parents may be active or passive and in varying proportion (they are uniquely created).
- II. We must teach him through the use of the rod and reproof that he cannot keep the law of God and needs a Savior to deliver him from his sin.
 - A. Know the Bible's commands regarding discipline (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15; II Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21)
 - B. Clearly define your expectations to your child in language that he can understand.
 - C. Ask the Lord for wisdom to identify your child's disobedience and for faith to obey what He has commanded you to do. Pray for compassion for your child who needs deliverance from his sin (Matthew 9:36).
 - D. When your child disobeys, discipline him Biblically, promptly consistently, diligently, and lovingly. (Proverbs 29:17)
 - 1. Express to him your sorrow and God's displeasure with his sin.
 - 2. Apply Scripture and Scripture terms in your reproof.
 - 3. Address the heart issues with questions.
 - E. Administer the rod. Use controlled, pre-determined discipline (Proverbs 23:13-14; 13:24).

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- F. Observe his responses to the discipline. Be willing to deal with a rebellious response to chastening.
 - G. Encourage your child to ask God for forgiveness for his sin.
 - H. Express physical love and verbal affection when the discipline is complete.
 - I. Maintain a positive, affectionate relationship with him that assures him that you have forgiven him. *Don't express anticipation of a reoccurrence of his behavior—even if the misbehavior has been repeated numerous times.
 - J. Help your child deal with the temptation to repeat the sin as you teach him the Scriptures.
 - K. Earnestly pray that God will give your child the grace to resist sin. Pray that God will give you the wisdom, faith, and strength to continue to deal Biblically with his sin.
 - L. Pray that your child's realization of his own sin will bring him to repentance and faith in Christ as his only hope for victory in the battle with his sinful flesh. Pray that he will have the assurance of his soul's salvation.
 - M. Don't become weary in well doing. Biblical discipline is not always easy, convenient, or instantly effective. Remind yourself that all chastening is sorrowful for the moment but will in God's time yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11).
 - N. Remind yourself of your own sin and God's repeated, kind, longsuffering and patient dealings with you. Model your unfailing, faithful responses after God's dealings with his people. (Read Psalm 78.)

- III. We must teach our child through the use of rebuke and exhortation that he will need to continue to submit his flesh and will to God in order to keep His commandments.
- A. Skillful use of the rod and reproof with younger children will teach them to submit themselves first to their earthly authorities and ultimately to God. Our efforts to train them to subject their wills never end—only our approach is altered.
 - B. This take us to the next phase of parenting – reproof and exhortation (When the rod has to be laid aside we are in the position of the father/ writer of Proverbs who over twenty times uses the phrase “my son give me thy heart”).
 - C. The “flesh” has a will and our children will always have their “flesh.” (Subjecting our wills to God is a life-long effort. Paul said, “I die daily.”) While we cannot expect to eradicate our child’s will, we can teach him the life-long skill of dying to self-will and submitting to the Lord and to those that He places in authority over him.
 - D. Teach him through the use of rebuke and exhortation that to keep God’s commandments he will need to learn to identify and resist the allurements of the world, the flesh, and the devil. He must remain in the battle with his sinful flesh until he is glorified.



God Blesses, Chastens and Forgives His Children

Psalm 78

6 That the generation to come might know, *even* the children yet to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children,

**7 That they should put their confidence in God
And not forget the works of God,
But keep His commandments,**

8 And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to God. 9 The sons of Ephraim were archers **equipped with bows**, Yet they **turned back** in the day of battle. 10 They **did not keep the covenant of God** and **refused to walk in His law**; 11 They **forgot His deeds** and His **miracles that He had shown them**. 12 **He wrought wonders** before their fathers In the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. 13 **He divided the sea** and **caused them to pass through**, and **He made the waters stand up** like a heap. 14 Then He **led them with the cloud by day** and **all the night**. 15 He **split the rocks** in the wilderness and **gave them abundant drink** like the ocean depths. 16 He **brought forth streams** also from the rock and **caused waters to run down** like rivers. 17 Yet **they still continued to sin against Him, to rebel** against the Most High in the desert. 18 And in their heart they **put God to the test** by **asking food according to their desire**. 19 Then they **spoke against God**; They said, "**Can God prepare** a table in the wilderness? 20 "Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, and streams were overflowing; **Can He give** bread also? **Will He provide** meat for His people?" 21 Therefore the LORD **heard and was full of wrath; and a fire was kindled against Jacob and anger also mounted against Israel**, 22 Because they **did not believe in God** and **did not trust in His salvation**. 23 **Yet He commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven; 24 He rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them food from heaven. 25 Man did eat the bread of angels; He sent them food in abundance. 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and by His power He directed the south wind. 27 When He rained meat upon them like the dust, even winged fowl like the sand of the seas, 28 Then He let them fall in the midst of their camp, round about their dwellings. 29 So they ate and were well filled, and their desire He gave to them.** 30 Before they had satisfied their desire, while their food was in their mouths, 31 The **anger of God rose against them and killed some of their stoutest ones, and subdued the choice men of Israel**. 32 In spite of all this **they still sinned** and **did not believe** in His wonderful works. 33 **So He brought their days to an end in futility and their years in sudden terror.** 34 When He killed them, then they sought Him, and returned and searched diligently for God; 35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the Most High God their Redeemer. 36 But **they deceived Him**

with their mouth and lied to Him with their tongue. 37 For their heart was not steadfast toward Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. 38 But He, being compassionate, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them; and often He restrained His anger and did not arouse all His wrath. 39 Thus He remembered that they were but flesh, A wind that passes and does not return. 40 How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert! 41 Again and again they tempted God, and pained the Holy One of Israel. 42 They did not remember His power, the day when He redeemed them from the adversary, 43 When He performed His signs in Egypt and His marvels in the field of Zoan,

44-51 (God's judgment on the enemies of His people)

52 But He led forth His own people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock; 53 He led them safely, so that they did not fear; but the sea engulfed their enemies. 54 So He brought them to His holy land, to this hill country which His right hand had gained. 55 He also drove out the nations before them and apportioned them for an inheritance by measurement, and made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents. 56 Yet they tempted and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep His testimonies, 57 But turned back and acted treacherously like their fathers; they turned aside like a treacherous bow. 58 For they provoked Him with their high places and aroused His jealousy with their graven images. 59 When God heard, He was filled with wrath and greatly abhorred Israel; 60 So that He abandoned the dwelling place at Shiloh, the tent which He had pitched among men, 61 And gave up His strength to captivity and His glory into the hand of the adversary. 62 He also delivered His people to the sword, and was filled with wrath at His inheritance. 63 Fire devoured His young men, and His virgins had no wedding songs. 64 His priests fell by the sword, and His widows could not weep. 65 Then the Lord awoke as if from sleep, Like a warrior overcome by wine. 66 He drove His adversaries backward; He put on them an everlasting reproach. 67 He also rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, 68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. 69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth which He has founded forever. 70 He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. 72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.