

We've Got Issues 5

“Disciple-ing Your Sons and Daughters”

8 Discipleship Steps for Parents

1) Help your children gain trust in the Bible.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- a) Confidence in the Bible has to be the foundation of every believer's life.
- b) Common misconceptions about the Bible:
 - i) “everyone knows that the Bible is an out-of-date book that has changed so many times through the years that nobody can trust it”
 - ii) “the Bible is just an ancient book full of myths and fables”
 - iii) “the Bible was written by men who copied other ancient stories and made them their own”
- c) Attend workshops, read good books together, find age appropriate resources that help you unpack solid historical evidence for the Bible.

An easy place to start is Josh McDowell's book, *More Than a Carpenter*.

2) Help your children develop a network of Jesus loving friends.

a) Peers who love Jesus

Luke 5:17-19 NLT One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. **18** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, **19** but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

verse 24-26 “... I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” **25** And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe...”

- b) Godly role models.

Philippians 3:17, 18 NLT Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. **18** For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

- 3) Strengthen your own walk with Christ.

- a) Your personal life.

- i) Get in the Word
- ii) Get into prayer and become a worshiper
- iii) Get engaged in your Church

- b) Your married life.

- i) I really believe that marriage gives Disciple-making parents the greatest opportunity in life to teach their kids about the joy and reward of knowing Jesus.
- ii) Dad's if your sons treat their wives like you treat yours would that wife feel loved and led into a real relationship with Christ? Mom's if your daughters treated their husbands the way you treat yours what would Jesus be exalted?

- 4) Make sure they know you love them.

Most kids at least partly base their view of God on their view of their parents.

- a) Be Verbal – say I love you just because you are you!
- b) Be Present: Spend alone time together.
- c) Keep Talking: keep a dialogue open.

- 5) Help your children develop some spiritual habits.

- a) Just like any other area of life (sports, the arts, and academics), there are certain habits you have to master to get better.
- b) So what are the key things your sons and daughters can do on a daily basis to grow spiritually.
 - i) The most common spiritual habits are Bible study and prayer.
 - ii) Find a helpful book and read it together with each child.

(1) *Come and Dine* by Richard Booker

- (2) *Disciplines of a Godly Man* by Kent Hughes
- (3) *God's Not Dead: Evidence for God in a Age of Uncertainty* by Rice Brooks
- (4) *Mere Christianity* By CS Lewis

6) Teach your children the reality of consequences.

a) The law of “sowing and reaping” is at work in this life and the life to come.

- i) Galatians 6:7-9 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- ii) Sow good seed reap a good harvest; so bad seed reap a bad crop.

b) Be Diligent to Discipline

- i) Proverbs 3:11,12 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, **12** for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:5-7 have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. **6** For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” **7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

- ii) Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

c) God's word connects **love** to the act of discipline.

- i) A loving parent inflicts temporary discomfort on his children to spare them the long-range disaster of an undisciplined life.

Refusal to discipline one's child when he needs it shows that a parent's genuine love for that child is questionable.

ii) Guidelines for Spanking

(1) Respond to defiance and rebellion.

Note: not all bad behavior is defiance. If the child forgets a rule or an instruction. Teach them to remember. Add a consequence that matches the behavior.

(2) Do it in love and never as a way to unleash your anger.

(3) Explain why you are inflicting temporary discomfort.

(4) Don't use your hand.

(5) Aim for the bottom.

Proverbs 23:13 NIV Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.

7) Teach your children how to serve others.

One of the hardest things to do in life is get your eyes off yourself. In fact, dwelling too much on yourself is one of the quickest paths to misery and depression.

Many people struggle with a life-giving; joy-producing relationship with Jesus because they never get their eyes off of themselves. They say, "the Jesus thing just didn't work for me" in reality nothing will work to produce life in a person that lives only for themselves.

8) Help your children wrestle with the challenges to Christianity.

a) As a parent don't just hope your children turn out right when they grow up. Take on the challenge to disciple and train them.

b) Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.