

Prepare Your Child For What's After

I. We need to teach our children that there is, in fact, an afterlife.

- Hebrews 9:27-28
- The majority of films and books don't try to shield your kids from death, but it sure does try to shield them from what happens after death. By ignoring the afterlife our kids become practical agnostics or atheists when it comes to the afterlife. May it never be for the children in our homes!
- Our kids need to understand the reality of the human life-cycle because there is infinitely more life after death than there is before it.

II. We need to teach our children that the afterlife starts with judgement.

- God talks a lot about the afterlife, and it starts with judgement.
- This is not to say that the judgment is a scary thing that denotes merely punishment. This word can refer simply to a non-biased decision resulting in negative or positive consequences.
 - The Great White Throne Judgment, Revelation 20:11-15
 - The Judgement Seat of Christ, II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:10-15
- If we don't teach our children about death and the afterlife, then we are failing to prepare them to meet their God.

III. We need to teach our children that the point of life after death is exactly the same as life before death.

- Jesus Christ died and rose again to bear the sins of the world. And He is coming back, but when He comes back, it will not be to add to the Gospel, it will be fulfill the Gospel by taking His followers home to Heaven and relegating the rebels to Hell.
- The funny thing is that most kids who have any kind of idea about what Heaven may be won't be surprised to hear that the afterlife is all about God.
- What may surprise them is that their life in the here and now is also supposed to be all about God. Sure, God isn't visible at this point, and, sure, there's sin in the world, but we were created to worship God. We need to do that now just like we need to do it in eternity.
- And so by teaching your children about the life after death, you're also preparing them to live a holy life before death.

IV. Bonus Point: Here are some ways you can use the lies of Halloween to transition into a Biblical discussion concerning the afterlife.

- *You can ask your kids if they think ghosts are real.*
 - II Corinthians 5:1-10; Job 7:9-10
- *You can ask your kids if they think the Devil lives in Hell.*
 - Matthew 25:41
- *You can ask your kids what they think about immortality?*
 - Immortality is so intoxicating to humans because we were created to live forever. Unfortunately, unbelievers and distracted Christians are so stuck on living this life as long as they can because death seems to be the end.
 - You can use this conversation to teach your children that they are immortal. Sure, their current body will likely one day die, but their spirits will live forever and God will give them a new body — it will either be a new body created to enjoy eternity with God or a new body able to endure the torments of Hell forever.