

Every Lesson You Need to Teach Your Kids | Deuteronomy 10:12-13

I. The First Lesson we must teach our children is that they must submit to God as Lord.

- There is no reality more powerful and important than the fact that God exists exactly as the Bible says. Therefore, He deserves our worship, yet we are incapable of giving Him that worship without His help. Jesus Christ came to do what we could not do . . . He came to pay the infinite debt we each owe God. He lived a perfect life, died a substitutionary death, and raised into a glorious resurrection . . . conquering death and claiming victory for all who submit to His Lordship.
- We can — and must — weave these themes into every facet of life. The easiest way to do this is allow their sin to show them their need for a Savior. Their sin hurts God, others, and themselves. Their sin demands reconciliation, but their sin also keeps them from being able to be reconciled. Only Christ's righteousness can do what they cannot do.

II. The Second Lesson we must teach our kids is that they must fear the Lord.

- The fear of the Lord is the acknowledgement that God is awesome and worthy of our maximum reverence. At the same time, we should not merely be afraid of Him like a pagan who believes his false God will strike him dead with lightening. We should also value Him enough that we are genuinely concerned that we may sin against Him — not because of the consequences that may befall us, but because we don't want to displease Him.
- He died to save us. He condescends to us. He loved us before we ever loved Him. He calls us out of our sin. Our deep respect for Him should genuinely make us afraid that we would ever desire to displease Him.
- When you teach your children how to cook, you can illustrate the foundational ideas concerning the fear of the Lord. You can explain the valid respect one must have for extreme heat and fire or the sharpness of a blade as you describe the reverential side of fear.
- When your children show respect for an adult they admire, you can ask them how they would feel if they displeased that individual. When the child expresses a genuine horror of hurting them, you should tie that idea to the much weighty concept of fearing the Lord. Ask them if they have similar feelings for displeasing their Savior.
- Our children need to understand what it means to fear the Lord, but they also need to appreciate the practical outworking . . . otherwise it's nothing more than an archaic phrase with no relevance to their lives.

III. The Third Lesson we must teach our kids is that they must imitate the Lord.

- Do you use the Scriptures to help your child know and understand God's High Expectations? Do you use it to help your child understand how their sinful choices reveal when they step off the way? Do you use it to help them return to the way and remain in the way? Those are the "Parents' 4 Jobs."
- This doesn't simply encompass the spiritual disciplines, moral character, and general virtue we so often imagine when discussing the Scriptures. It applies to the mundane practicalities of life as well. The Bible may not teach basic math, but it does teach our kids the attitude with which they should approach their math. The Bible may not teach our kids how to drive, but it does outline the worldview that would guide where our children take the car and how fast they get there. The Bible may not discuss social media, but it does provide every answer our kids need to use that tool to God's greatest glory and for their greatest good.

IV. The Fourth Lesson we must teach our kids is that they must love the Lord.

- The essence of love can be distilled down to this: love wants and works toward God's best interest for the one loved. If I love God, my life will be exhibited by a desire to work toward God's ultimate glory.
- When your children make choices — good and bad — try to ask them question that will reveal their motivation for making the decision. Even if they made what appeared to be a good choice, it's vital to understand their thinking and reasons. A good deed done for selfish reasons is a bad choice. It doesn't glorify God and is the result of self-love, not God-love.
- I cannot express how important it is to know why your kids do what they do. I think our biggest parenting failures can be summed up in this: We don't know why our kids do what they do, and when we discover it, we excuse it. This is why we created "The Merest Christianity" series. It answers the question, "why do your kids do what they do?" It's so important for us to understand. Good parenting focuses on parenting motive, not action.
- Do the lessons you teach in your home revolve around loving God? They'll have to if we're being Ambassador Parents.

IV. The Fifth Lesson we must teach our kids is that they must serve the Lord

- The ess God wants you and your kids to daily live in the reality of the fact that He is your greatest authority. In fact, let's be honest, your authority as a parent means absolutely nothing if God is not the ultimate authority.
- But recognizing God as an authority and then not being super interested in discovering and obeying His will is like working at Target and expecting Walmart to pay your checks. We want God's blessing; we want His power and guidance and peace and prosperity, but we want Him to give us all of that as we go about working our own plans.
- If we are truly followers of Christ, then we're going to fear Him. If we fear Him, we're going to understand the necessity of imitating Him. As we imitate Him, we're going to learn to love Him. If we love Him, we're going to stop working our own plans, and we'll start actively working His.
- We need to teach our kids through every mundane moment of life that we should be working them how God commands for the God who commands it.

IV. The Sixth Lesson we must teach our kids is that they must obey the Lord.

- God is teaching us that as we teach our children to follow Christ as His disciples, they will naturally fear Him and imitate Him and love Him and serve Him and that will live itself out in our practical, day-to-day observance of His commandments and statutes.
- And, then God ends off the list with a glorious promise, "*And now, [child of God], what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord which I am commanding you today **for your good?***"

If we love our kids and truly want them to experience the good things in life, we must first make sure that we are doing our best to follow these 6 Life Lessons and teaching them to do the same. And it doesn't matter if it's a conversation about boyfriends and girlfriends or school or sports or learning to use the potty, each of those conversations can be tied to one or more of these 6 Life Lessons. Intentionally working these themes into our daily parenting will produce a God-awareness in our kids and repeatedly draw their minds back to the realities of life that really matter.