

Train a child in the way he should go...

God gives parents constant opportunities to teach their children about godly living. Through their parents' life and living testimony, children can learn personal accountability to God.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

-Proverbs 22:6

In everything they see us do, we are always teaching our children something. Whether we respond correctly or incorrectly to situations, they are watching and learning.

Consider their daily stimuli, what kind of actions, attitudes, and opinions do you see [your] children imitating?

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

V. 4, 5 - What command does Moses relay from God to the Israelites? What does it mean to love the Lord in this way?

V. 6, 9 - Describe the time when such instruction should/can take place in modern culture.

Share some of the ways you have found to do this.

The Lord makes fathers and mothers responsible for teaching their children spiritual principles. Oftentimes, young people rebel against authority because their parents have failed to learn His Word and instruct their children in it.

Did your parents ever teach you the Bible or share something that God had taught them?

What difference did that instruction or lack of instruction make in your life?

Read Luke 15:11-32

How does the father in this story symbolize God's response toward us?

If you've had to demonstrate such an attitude with a child, describe what that experience was like.

We need to guide [our] children to recognize and respect God as the ultimate authority in their lives.

Why is it important to begin teaching your children to transfer their feelings of responsibility from you to God while they are young? Look up: Romans 14:10-12 2 Corinthians 5:10

God has given us authority over our children for a season.

Ultimately, they are responsible to the Lord for their actions and attitudes.

Although the instinct to protect is strong, sometimes we need to let children make an unwise decision. This means allowing the child to experience some consequences in order to mature, even if it's within our ability to remove unpleasant affect.

Did your parents let you make mistakes, or did they rescue you? What effect do you think that has had? What have you witnessed in this regard with other parents and children?

Children hear when we gossip about a church member or brag about avoiding a speeding ticket. We must demonstrate a lifestyle of accountability to the Lord even in small things. Otherwise, this principle will be meaningless to [our] children.

Discuss: How can we demonstrate to [our] children that we hold ourselves accountable to God?

Reading of Scripture • Proud evangelism • Demonstrating forgiveness • Frequent fervent prayer • Proclaiming God's faithfulness • Demonstrating the principle of sowing and reaping • Godly stewardship of time, skills, and resources • Tithing