

1. Teaching spiritual truths

Principle –Instructing our children in all the aspects of God and Godly living are to be an integral part of everyday life.

Key Scripture:

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **Teach them to your children**, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Matthew 18:5-6 "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. ⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a **large millstone** hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

Proverbs 22:6 Train a **child** in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Comment

We are instructed to establish the truths of God and a Christ-like approach to life in our children. This is to be part of everyday living. We are to teach their minds but of equal importance, we are also to fix these things in their hearts – that is, it should become part of who they are and how they deal with life. We are warned in the most serious terms not to lead a child to sin. Equally the Scripture promises that if we do train our children in the things of God it will be part of them for life.

Application in daily life??

- ♦ We are to actively teach our children about spiritual matters, including their need of salvation– not just hope that it happens (nor are we to just wait and see if they are interested in such things... - or leave it to someone else - there are eternal consequences at stake here!).
- ♦ Our faith and its application should be so much part of us that it is automatically part of everything we do. This relates to things like serving, unconditional love, forgiveness, not seeking revenge, patience, giving, grace versus truth, and trusting God to meet our own needs. Hence there is opportunity everyday to teach and show our children how God expects us to think and act (today's word for it is "mentoring"!).
- ♦ Even if a young adult appears to have ignored the spiritual training of their childhood, they are likely to return to it as they become older.

Our example?? Do we live life in a way that daily demonstrates and sows spiritual truths (including eternal life) into our children's lives?