



PROVERBS 22:6

TRAIN UP A CHILD

We all know the Proverb: “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). But *how* do we train our children up?

Make God the top priority in your home (Deuteronomy 6:4-6).

We begin by making God the top priority in our home. He is number one. We love Him with all we are, and we keep His words before us. Is God the top priority in your home? We often think we are making God number one, but do other things or activities take precedent? For example, a typical Sunday has many opportunities for activities (ball games, hunting, fishing, golf). When everything else takes priority over worship and being with God’s people, the message is implied to our children that God is not the top priority.

Be intentional about teaching your children about the Lord in the morning, at meals, and before bedtime (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Thankfully, we have heard a great deal about putting this principle into practice from Randall House and their D6 curriculum. I encourage you to talk to your children about the Lord in the morning. You might share how a passage applies to a test they have that day, or a bully that is giving them a hard time. Talk about how passages like Philippians 4 or

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Matthew 6 apply to our lives and pray with them. When you have access to your children during the day, do the same by talking about current events or things taking place in the community. For example, if a neighbor dies, you might talk about how we are to try to bear the burden (Galatians 6:2), how the Holy Spirit helps us (John 14:16), and how God has prepared a place for those who follow Him (John 14:1-3). It is good to talk with our kids about the Lord before bedtime. Read a passage of Scripture or sing a hymn. Whatever we explore immediately before bed tends to be meditated upon throughout the night (Psalm 63:6). This is especially important when a child is prone to anxiety or depression.

Give gifts to be worn and placed throughout the house that remind your children about the teachings of God (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

If we spent time with orthodox Jews, Deuteronomy 6:8-9 would come to life. What they wear, and the scroll on their doorposts are intended to remind them of God. We can give bracelets, armbands, or even journals with Scripture to remind our children about the teachings of God throughout the day. It also helps to place items throughout our home and refer to them frequently. You have probably noticed many homes display Bible verses that are key for that family. All of these activities come together to help us truly train up our children to follow the Lord.

JEREMIAH 29
INITIATIVE

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