



# CORE

## **FAMILY: We believe in reaching children with Jesus and teaching the family to follow Jesus together.**

June 23, 2024

- We believe in reaching children with Jesus.
- We believe in teaching the family to follow Jesus together.

### **1. The family is under attack.**

### **2. The Bible tells us children are a blessing, not a burden.**

*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." Genesis 4:1 (ESV)*

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:3–5 (ESV)*

### **3. A parent's success is measured by what they do, not what a child does.**

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*

*The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4 (ESV)*

#### **4. The most powerful influence in a child's life must be their parents, not their peers.**

*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)*

*And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel. Judges 2:7 (ESV)*

*And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. Judges 2:10 (ESV)*

*And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. Judges 2:11–13 (ESV)*

#### **5. The greatest need of every child is the gospel.**

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— Romans 5:12 (ESV)*

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5 (ESV)*

*as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Romans 3:10–12 (ESV)*

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him. Proverbs 22:15 (ESV)

**A. Making children behave is not the answer.**

**B. Isolating children from the world is not the answer.**

The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. Proverbs 14:15 (ESV)

**C. Being born again is the only answer.**

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7–8 (ESV)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'  
John 3:6–7 (ESV)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:14 (ESV)

**6. Every moment is a teaching opportunity.**

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)

## 7. How do I bring up my children in the instruction of the Lord?

A. Be intentional and thorough.

B. Teach them the entire Bible.

Action Bible - <https://a.co/d/0dl4DQJc>

The Picture Bible - <https://a.co/d/05Rw1iMY>

### Conclusion

- At CrossWinds, we are not just reaching children with Jesus; we are committed to children and their parents following Christ together. God gives parents the responsibility of being the primary teachers of Jesus in their children's lives. We are committed to helping parents succeed in that task, not replacing them.

### Life Group Questions

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1. Did you grow up in a Christian home? If so, how did your parents teach you about Jesus?
2. **Read Psalm 127:3-5.** What does this Psalm teach us about children?
3. **Read Proverbs 22:6.** What does this proverb teach us? How can this proverb be misrepresented?
4. **Read Deuteronomy 22:6-7.** What is this verse teaching us about how to parent? What should parents do when unhelpful peers become a stronger influence in their children's lives than they are?
5. **Read Judges 2:10-13.** What led to an entire generation of Israelites wandering away from the Lord?
6. **Read Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:10-18.** What does this teach us about the heart of every child? While it is hard to accept, why must we believe in the total depravity of our children's hearts?
7. Pastor Kurt said, "The problem is not what parents do to their children, it is what they don't do with their children." What does that mean? How does that change the way you will approach parenting for your children?
8. Why are simply forcing a child to behave in public or isolating them from the world inadequate parenting strategies?
9. **Read Ephesians 6:4.** Paul boils a parent's job down to loving your children well and bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Why are those the two most important things for every parent to focus on?