



DAY 1 MATTHEW 19:13-14

1

God has entrusted the next generation to us; what an exciting and overwhelming task! One of the most challenging aspects of parenting is balancing overprotectiveness and indifference. There are times we want to shield our child from any hurt or unpleasantness. Our hearts break when they are struggling. But, then there are times when we are passive to some of the world's ungodly influences. Neither isolation nor indifference are on God's agenda for Biblical parenting. A better option is inoculation. In John 17:17, Jesus says, "Sanctify them by the truth: your word is truth." Invest in the next generation by taking time to clarify and demonstrate God's pattern for life. Whether we are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, etc., we are the ones molding the minds of new Christians. And as much as we edify them, they will help us recognize feelings of trust and unconditional love as only a child can.

DAY 2 EPHESIANS 6:4

2

As parents, our words and actions have a profound effect on the hearts of our children. Children have deep trust in what we say and we must be wise in the way we use that influence. Ephesians 6:4 says "do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." This is difficult at times because in our hectic world there is little time to practice patience. We ourselves are often frustrated. But, we must remember that ultimately our children belong to God and we must bring them up His way. There is no perfect parent, but because of Christ's sacrifice for us, there is perfect grace. He loved us enough to make the ultimate sacrifice to redeem us and give us purpose. It is this grace and purpose that drives us to protect and train our children in the way they should go. When we do so, God promises they will not depart from His love.

DAY 3 PROVERBS 4:23

3

The highest priority for any parent isn't to shape a child's actions. It is to focus on their heart. The heart is what brings life to a child. We are preparing them for the day when they will be independent and make their own decisions. In John 7, Jesus sent His disciples into the world. He knew he had to send them, and yet he knew that the world would be antagonistic to what they believed. He instructed them for their journey just as we must prepare our children. The state of the heart is the root of outward action. It is our job to protect and guide our children's hearts toward moral attitudes and a right relationship with God. If we help guard their hearts, then we do not need to worry about every little thing they do. Our most important mission is to guide our children's hearts towards Christ!

DAY DEUTERONOMY 4:9

4

We are the ambassadors for the next generation. We need to pass on our faith to them with diligence. This world says, “live for yourself” and, “choose your own truth.” While seemingly empowering, this is the exact opposite of how God calls us to live. There is only one truth! God’s word instructs us to live for Christ by serving others and making disciples. This is the example we should set for our children. It is so easy for children to get lost in the whirlwind of sensational experiences around them. We must not lose heart of our own faith. Our words become much less effective without actions to back them up. The future of Christianity depends on our actions now. If we don’t teach and show truth, it will fade. Let’s not raise our children to survive the world, let’s raise them to change it.

DAY PSALM 1

5

In this brief Psalm, we find the secret to thriving in life. When we fill our minds with truth, we flourish like “a tree planted by streams of water.” Yet, when we surround ourselves with the wrong influences, our lives resemble useless “chaff.” This Psalm also gives us some powerful principles for raising the next generation. The influences we allow our senses to experience affect our thoughts and behavior. Therefore, need to provide environments where our children can hear the truth. We are to surround them with peers and mentors who will help them see the correct path. We must never fail to recognize the full potential of the next generation nor underestimate the importance of investing in our kids. As cliché as it may sound, children are our future.

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