

Chapter 5: Parenting

I. Training

We all know we should take care of our children physically, and we also want to lead them spiritually, especially for their salvation—yet it’s easy to get distracted by things that are physically urgent **or** to feel clueless and not know exactly what to do. How do we lead our children to Jesus, and how do we change ourselves?

A. Lay the foundation

- Pray **for** them

For their salvation and growth, for our own wisdom and example, etc.

☐ Add to routine

- Pray **with** them

For ideas, see chapter 3 on prayer`

☐ Add to routine

- Be an example

Am I lacking as an example in any area of life? What specific action can I take, and how often?

Am I only spending time with God in private and not showing them what it looks like? How can I be more open?

- Fellowship

1. Activities:

What did my parents do with me, or what do I wish they had done? What ideas have I heard from other parents or found online?

Activities I plan to do with my kids:

How much time every day? _____

2. Ask questions for listening to them:

Conversation prompts on imom.com/ask-your-child/

☐ Get a notebook for writing their answers

My ideas for questions to ask them:

3. Be involved

Look for a time in your schedule when you are working on something and they're playing, and make it a point to interact with them and show interest in what they are doing. For example, in your schedule you can write "wash dishes **and** watch kids play."

- ☐ I need to act on this
- ☐ It's already a habit

4. Be positive; give positive feedback when they attempt something even when it's a failed attempt. Show that you're on their side! Maybe set a reminder for every day.

- ☐ I need to act on this
- ☐ It's already a habit

5. Show love through actions and words of affirmation.

What I plan to do and say:

B. Authority

Is there any way I need to improve in discipline?

Am I firm in showing authority?

Do they have an understanding of God's authority? Do I need to explain it to them? How?

C. Teach the Gospel

☐ Explain based on the Bible

Law as the standard, sin (Romans 3:23), consequences (Romans 6:23a), Jesus (Romans 6:23b, Romans 5:8), their part (Romans 10:13; Luke 18:13)

☐ Find resources that explain the Gospel to children

☐ Tell my testimony

D. Help them grow

1. What should I teach for their walk with God?

- ☐ Principles about God (Jeremiah 9:24)
- ☐ Commands (Deuteronomy 6:7; John 14:21)
- ☐ Why we do certain things
- ☐ Why we don't do certain things
- ☐ Why following Jesus is worth it
- ☐ Ways I've seen God work in my life (write down experiences in a journal)
- ☐ Discipleship based on 2 Peter 1:5-7
- ☐ Other:

When will I teach these things? (*School time, etc.*)

How will I teach these things? (*Brainstorm*)

2. Verse memory

Ideas: John 14:6; Proverbs 1:10; Ephesians 4:32

Verses to memorize:

Old memory verses to review:

How:

- ☐ Written
- ☐ Spoken
- ☐ Spoken with sign language
- ☐ Verse songs*
- ☐ App**

*See charitykay.com/parentingresources (video section)

**App: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.millennialsolutions.scripturetyper>

How often: _____

- ☐ Added to my routine?

3. Sibling relationships

What is an area where they have conflict? How can I teach them a better response?

Activities that help them work together:

4.Influences

What things reach my heart and move me to love God and people?

For ideas, see charitykay.com/parentingresources

- Music:
- Testimonies of God's love:
- Seeing needs:
- Ways I've seen God work in my own life:

5. Correction

What are the biggest areas of their character they need improvement on?

What are the best responses?

For children that are already saved: Ginger Hubbard's "Wise Words for Moms" chart

6. Preparing for questions or doubts (age 10 & up)

Ideas on charitykay.com/parentingresources

1) Why are some prayers not answered?

2) Why does God allow suffering?

3) How do we know that Christianity is true?

D. Fixing parenting mistakes

What do I need to say I'm sorry for?

Any responses that are not ideal - what is a better response?

What are the words/actions that trigger me?

What are the conditions that make me more likely to respond harshly (tiredness, stress)? How can I limit those conditions or prepare?

When am I going to visualize/practice a better response? *(Responses are spontaneous, so practice ahead of time, maybe weekly, to be mentally prepared.)*

Staying on track

What are my favorite parenting resources, or ones I want to look into?

- Books
- Websites / Email subscriptions
- Youtube (make a playlist)

How often will I read / listen? _____

☐ Added to my routine?