



Nurturing Your Child's Faith

By: Kathryn Egly



*“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)

As parents, we are used to ‘outsourcing’ services for our kids. When we want them to learn to play the piano, we take them to a piano teacher. If we want them to learn Spanish, we take them to a Spanish class. When we want them to learn how to swim, we take them to swim lessons. And because we want our children to learn about Jesus and grow spiritually, we take them to church. We might be tempted to think, “Let’s leave the teaching of spiritual matters to the professionals!”

But we can’t outsource our children’s spiritual development! We, as parents, spend more time with our children than the professionals. We know them best because we see them in their most vulnerable states—when they are angry, sad, hurting, lonely, curious, and sick. It is our role as parents to be the primary nurturers of our children’s faith. Even if we don’t feel equipped to teach about spiritual matters, our children will be impacted by the environment in our homes and the words we say or don’t say.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (MSG) instructs us:

Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

Leading our children in a loving relationship with their Father God occurs in the natural flow of life—talking about it throughout the day, at bedtime, in the car, or on a walk. We must be intentional to live out our faith in our children’s presence. They need to hear our prayers and our apologies. They need to know God is our Creator and Provider. They need to hear what He’s done in our lives and how He’s answered prayer. Spiritual development happens all the time, not just on Sunday mornings.

Raising our children is a big responsibility, but we have a *bigger* God who will empower us to be the mothers He has called us to be! The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our Helper. The Holy Spirit will help us know how to teach and instruct our children:

But the Helper will teach you everything. He will cause you to remember all the things I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name. (John 14:26 ICB)

The Bible also tells us that God will give us wisdom if we ask for it:

But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. God is generous. He enjoys giving to all people, so God will give you wisdom. (James 1:5 ICB)

Though passing on our faith is our responsibility, being a part of a local church can and should support us to “train up our children in the way that they should go” (Proverbs 22:6 ESV).

Your children were given to you from God, and He has equipped you to be the primary spiritual caregiver. Rely on Him to empower you!