



Grace Christian School

Parenting Tools

November 2022

Building and Modeling A Flourishing Godly Faith in Your Child



Parenting in today's culture is not for the faint of heart. Parents are navigating outside influences, cultural relativism and subjective truths that pummel our youth on a daily, if not hourly basis. You face more stress and responsibility as a parent, and undoubtedly, you feel it, and it affects you in many ways.

So, where do you turn and what do you do as a parent? You deeply love your children, and you want the best for them. Where does one turn as a parent to know how to manage all that is facing our youth? Well, there is great news and hope we find in Jesus and in God's word – the Bible. Let's start by looking at Deuteronomy 6:4–8:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your might. 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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

Let's unpack these truths that God tells us about the purpose of parenting. In wanting the best for your children, here is what God tells us in this passage *about how you can do the best for your children*:

- Introduce them to the God of the Bible
- Model experiencing God for them
- Teach them to love the Lord with all their heart, soul and might

Primary Faith Influencers and Models

At Grace Christian School, we serve to support you in your God-given role to model Deuteronomy 6:4–8. It is the responsibility and calling of every parent to nurture their child’s spiritual development, and we as teachers and staff exist to support you in your role as parents. As Christian author Paul Tripp has said, “Nothing is more important in your life than being one of God’s tools to form a human soul.”

What does that look like to live out this principle on a day-to-day basis? It is making a whole lot of Jesus in your home and protecting and guarding your children from the enemy’s pursuits. It’s teaching your children about what a personal relationship with Jesus looks like. Jesus is the only one who can change hearts and help us to know God as the only living God; He is good and He is faithful!

It’s worth repeating again: The God-given calling of every parent is to be the *primary* faith influencer and trainer in the life of their children, with the hope that their children will become a disciple of Jesus. When it comes to being the *primary* faith influencer and trainer in your child’s life, you can’t rely on someone else to be that *primary* influencer, because God has chosen YOU to be that for your child!

Are you wondering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? Well, a disciple of Jesus learns from Jesus, lives like Jesus, and teaches others to learn from and live like Jesus. Think about it. God has specifically designed your child for an awesome purpose, and He has called YOU to help them understand who they are in Christ and how He has wired and gifted them to be part of His work and mission in the world.

George Barna, author of *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, says that while we often consider “the good life” to be a life full of comfort and little hardship, “a Biblical understanding of ‘the good life’ is one that provides and exploits opportunities in order to experience, obey, and serve God and other people. The existence of difficulties, failures, and even persecution are not so much indicators of failure as they are events that build character, our testimony, and reflect our

As parents, you cannot make your children know and love God, however, you can create a *rhythm of discipleship* within your home and your family that will help you fulfill your calling as parents. God Himself is a perfect, Heavenly Father, and yet none of us could count how many times His perfect love has been rejected. As parents, the best we can do is be faithful to God’s call to be the *primary* faith influencers and trainers in our children’s lives and to pray relentlessly and continually for God to take hold of and transform their hearts.

“One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.” Psalm 145:4

Think about this for a moment: who is influencing your children the most? During the upcoming school year, your child will spend on average:

***40 hours at church**

***1,200 hours at school**

***3,000 hours at home**

Praise God for your commitment to place your child in 1,200 hours at Grace Christian School! As previously said, we are here to support you in your God-given leadership role in the spiritual formation of your child! Let's talk about practical steps to partner together in our roles.

"How you express and live out your faith may have a greater impact on your son or daughter than anything else." – Kara E. Powell, Sticky Faith

Modeling

The greatest gift you can ever give your child is MODELING what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus in everyday life. MODELING is a long process; it will never be perfect.

- Start with showing your child how you love God.
- Show how you are learning to trust and obey God in everyday life, especially when life gets difficult.
- Let them see how you grow as a disciple of Jesus by reading the Bible, praying, and spending time with other disciples – like being in church weekly with your family and engaging in your church's family small groups.
- Serve God by serving others; serve with your child, if possible.
- Let them see that God is teaching you because you too are also in a constant journey to learn how to know and love God like Jesus.

One of the best ways to partner with other families who have children is in church family small groups. Family small groups usually meet in a home once a week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Family small groups are catalysts in helping parents grow in their own discipleship, and the groups help parents develop effectiveness in MODELING discipleship for their children.

*"One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."
Psalm 145:4*

Parenting Resources

Here are some parenting resources that will help you MODEL and teach your children about a relationship with Jesus:

- Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family by Paul David Tripp
- Shepherding a Child's Heart by Ted Tripp
- Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens by Paul David Tripp
- Parenting with Scripture by Kara Durbin
- Teachable Moments by Marybeth Hicks
- The Reason for God by Timothy Keller
- Are my Kids on Track?: The 12 Emotional, Social and Spiritual Milestones Your Child Needs to Reach by Sissy Goff, Melissa Trevathan and David Thomas
- Raising Emotionally Strong Boys: Tools Your Son Can Build On for Life by David Thomas
- Raising Worry Free Girls: Helping Your Daughter Feel Braver, Stronger, and Smarter in An Anxious World by Sissy Goff

“The sobering fact is that parents will have influence on their children. It can be positive or negative, but what you do will make an impact on your kids. How I pursue God, how I love my wife, how I respond to authority, how I spend my money, and how I will communicate will all effect their values and perspectives in life.”

–Reggie Joiner, Think Orange

Parents, without daily MODELING of what discipleship looks like, every other part of a family's rhythm will feel like more noise in a culture where your children are already bombarded by so many subjective voices and so much noise that do not support Biblical truth. If you have questions about what it looks like to have a personal relationship with Jesus and to follow God's beautiful design for your life, we would love to connect with you, answer questions you may have, connect you with a local church, and rejoice with you as you make the best decision you will ever make in your life: to follow Jesus.

Praying God's grace and peace,

Mrs. Cindy Phillips