

Guiding Young Hearts

Pray. Pray every day for God to move in your child's heart. As parents, you are the primary spiritual guides for your children. It's important to remember that while you're nurturing the soil and planting the seeds, it is God who makes things grow.

"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Phil. 1:6

Awareness. Help your child build an awareness of their sins. It can be things we say, things we think, and things we do that don't please God. Gently point out when your child's actions or words do not please God and share with them what the Bible says about those sins. Perhaps start with the ten commandments. Remind your children that we all sin, we are all in need of a Savior, and God loves & forgives us.

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" -Romans 3:23

Teach. Teach your children to confess and to repent. When we confess, Jesus is faithful to forgive us from sin and to cleanse our hearts, making us more like Him. The word "repent" just means you change your mind. It means you used to think one way and now you think another way; to start rethinking your life the way Jesus thinks.

"So repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]." Acts 3:19 (AMP)

Lead. The world will entice your children in various ways. The enemy is very deceptive. Parents must be alert to what/who is 'feeding' their children. Know who your children's friends are, what they are watching online and on television, who they interact with on social media. Be vigilant to protect your children from deceptive messages that could capture their hearts and draw them away from God.

"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)

Encourage. As you talk with your children, encourage them to talk with God throughout the day, to ask Him to help keep their hearts pure, to walk in His ways.

"Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. 7 And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]. - Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP)