

Can anyone guess who this is?



Here’s some hints... This little gold-haired girl has tried a bowl of porridge that was too hot, another one that was too cold and finally she has the porridge that was just right. Yes, this is Goldilocks of the “Goldilocks and Three Bears” fame. She also did the same with three beds and three chairs. She wanted to find JUST THE RIGHT chair and just the right bed... And church family...that’s what we’re looking for when it comes to teaching, training and discipline in the home...we’re looking for that which is “just right.” We’re looking for the right balance.

This morning we continue in our series:



“Proverbs for the Marriage and Family,” and today’s message is Part-2 of what we started last week...as we talk about Parenting. This morning, we’re going to seek to get into the “nuts and bolts” of how to teach and train our children.

Proverbs 1:8-9

⁸Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Mom and Dad, it's so important that we offer "fathers' instruction" and "mothers' teaching." This is Parenting. And for the Jew, this "instruction and teaching" went all the way back to the Shema... What is the Shema? Well, first, the word: "shema," means: "hear." The shema is not only a prayer, but also a confession of faith for a Hebrew home. It is the centerpiece of the Jewish home, and it was certainly the centerpiece of the home that Jesus grew up in...truly, the Shema would have been taught to Jesus and were part of the instructions of Joseph and the teachings of Mary. The Shema was used to teach and train in the home. Watch...

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.^[a] **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** 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. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Now, the reason I share this with you is because we're seeking to teach and train in our homes, and you'll remember we saw last week the importance of obedience and the need to expect obedience in our homes...and we certainly want to find that right balance between justice and mercy...we want to seek the Lord for the "Goldilocks Principle," that which is "just right."

Now to help us seek to find this balance, I want to use the idea of the Shema to guide us. In the Shema we saw three things: #1 the command to teach... "You shall teach the commands of God diligently to your children." #2 We saw how they were instructed to set up their homes as a peculiar place...meaning they would even put the Scriptures on their doorposts...meaning they were going to manage what influenced that home...even by what was seen on the doors. And #3, the entire goal of the Hebrew home, was to pass along the faith to the next generation. In other words, the child was expected to eventually own their own faith. This is how this looks and will guide us today.

How To Train Our Children:

- 1 Teach and Model**
 - 2 Manage What's Allowed in the Home (Gatekeepers)**
 - 3 Help Them Own Their Own Faith**
-

Let's look at #1...How do we train our children?

How To Train Our Children:

- 1 Teach and Model**
 - 2 Managing What's Allowed in the Home (Gatekeepers)**
 - 3 Help Them Own Their Own Faith**
-

Now to understand about teaching and modeling in our homes...we need to understand the method that is most often used today...and you might not even know this. The method used most often to teach in our culture is the Greek Model. What is that?

Greek Model of Teaching (Lecture Method)

1. Sitting and listening
2. Digesting large chunks of data
3. Regurgitating that data back to the teacher in some way (ex: tests)
4. Forget it all in about two weeks
5. Cookie cutter, one size fits all approach

Hebraic Model of Teaching (Do Method)

1. Teaching by modeling/showing the pupil
2. "Hands on" versus just listening method (DOING is the key to learning)

3. Apprenticeships are the norm using this model
4. Major on the gifting/abilities of the pupil
5. Skills are learned and remembered for life

What method does our schools use? It's what I'm doing. But it used to not be that way. At the founding of this nation, we primarily apprenticed. You had: Blacksmiths, Bakers, Taylors, Tanners, Millers, Farmers, etc. And oh...are you noticing something here...that's where a lot of our last names came from. But things changed with Industrialized Revolution as we moved into the 1800's.



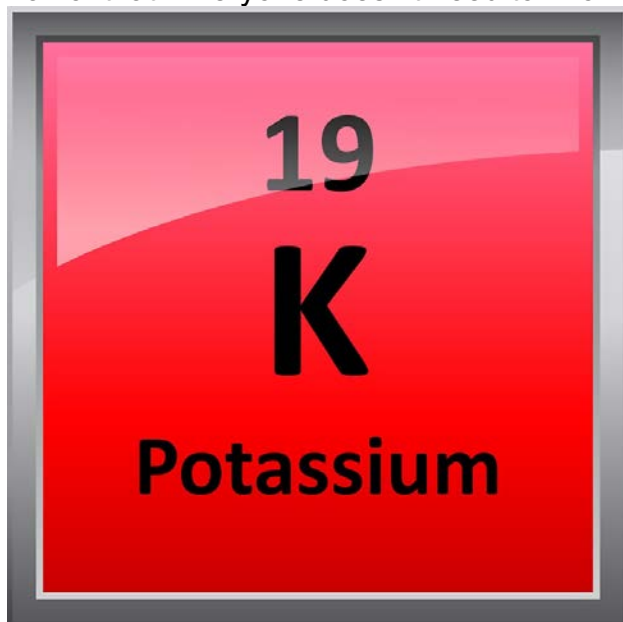
Factories popped up and we needed people to sit in rows and lines...and do mundane tasks all day, every day...so, they had to be trained to do that and so, Horace Mann and John Dewey put them in rows into desks...moving by bells...8 hours a day. And thus, the invention of the modern educational system that we still use today...and I would argue...we are turning out cookie-cutters when we would be better served training kids in their bent. What do I mean?

Well, I'm not convinced everyone needs to memorize The Periodic Table of Elements, as I did.

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

1 1A H Hydrogen 1.008	2 2A He Helium 4.0026																	18 VIIIA 8A He Helium 4.0026
3 Li Lithium 6.941	4 Be Beryllium 9.0122											5 B Boron 10.811	6 C Carbon 12.011	7 N Nitrogen 14.007	8 O Oxygen 15.999	9 F Fluorine 18.998	10 Ne Neon 20.180	
11 Na Sodium 22.990	12 Mg Magnesium 24.305	3 3B Al Aluminum 26.982	4 IVB Si Silicon 28.086	5 VB P Phosphorus 30.974	6 VIB S Sulfur 32.06	7 VIIB Cl Chlorine 35.453	8 VIII 8 Ar Argon 39.948	9 VIII 9 K Potassium 39.098	10 VIII 10 Ca Calcium 40.078	11 IB Cu Copper 63.546	12 IIB Zn Zinc 65.38	13 IIIA Ga Gallium 69.723	14 IVA Ge Germanium 72.64	15 VA As Arsenic 74.922	16 VIA Se Selenium 78.96	17 VIIA Br Bromine 79.904	18 VIIIA Kr Krypton 83.798	
19 K Potassium 39.098	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.956	22 Ti Titanium 47.88	23 V Vanadium 50.942	24 Cr Chromium 51.996	25 Mn Manganese 54.938	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.933	28 Ni Nickel 58.69	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.38	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.64	33 As Arsenic 74.922	34 Se Selenium 78.96	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.798	
37 Rb Rubidium 85.468	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.906	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.906	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94	43 Tc Technetium 98.906	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.905	46 Pd Palladium 106.36	47 Ag Silver 107.868	48 Cd Cadmium 112.411	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.71	51 Sb Antimony 121.757	52 Te Tellurium 127.6	53 I Iodine 126.905	54 Xe Xenon 131.29	
55 Cs Cesium 132.905	56 Ba Barium 137.327	57-71 Lanthanide Series	72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.948	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.22	78 Pt Platinum 195.08	79 Au Gold 196.967	80 Hg Mercury 200.59	81 Tl Thallium 204.38	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.98	84 Po Polonium [209]	85 At Astatine [210]	86 Rn Radon [222]	
87 Fr Francium [223]	88 Ra Radium [226]	89-103 Actinide Series	104 Rf Rutherfordium [261]	105 Db Dubnium [262]	106 Sg Seaborgium [266]	107 Bh Bohrium [264]	108 Hs Hassium [277]	109 Mt Meitnerium [268]	110 Ds Darmstadtium [271]	111 Rg Roentgenium [272]	112 Cn Copernicium [285]	113 Uut Ununtrium [284]	114 Fl Flerovium [289]	115 Uup Ununpentium [288]	116 Lv Livermorium [293]	117 Uus Ununseptium [294]	118 Uuo Ununoctium [294]	
		57 La Lanthanum 138.905	58 Ce Cerium 140.12	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.908	60 Nd Neodymium 144.24	61 Pm Promethium [145]	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.964	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.925	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.50	67 Ho Holmium 164.930	68 Er Erbium 167.259	69 Tm Thulium 168.934	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.054	71 Lu Lutetium 174.967		
		89 Ac Actinium [227]	90 Th Thorium [232]	91 Pa Protactinium [231]	92 U Uranium [238]	93 Np Neptunium [237]	94 Pu Plutonium [244]	95 Am Americium [243]	96 Cm Curium [247]	97 Bk Berkelium [247]	98 Cf Californium [251]	99 Es Einsteinium [252]	100 Fm Fermium [257]	101 Md Mendelevium [258]	102 No Nobelium [259]	103 Lr Lawrencium [260]		
		Alkali Metal	Alkaline Earth	Transition Metal	Basic Metal	Semimetal	Nonmetal	Halogen	Noble Gas	Lanthanide	Actinide							

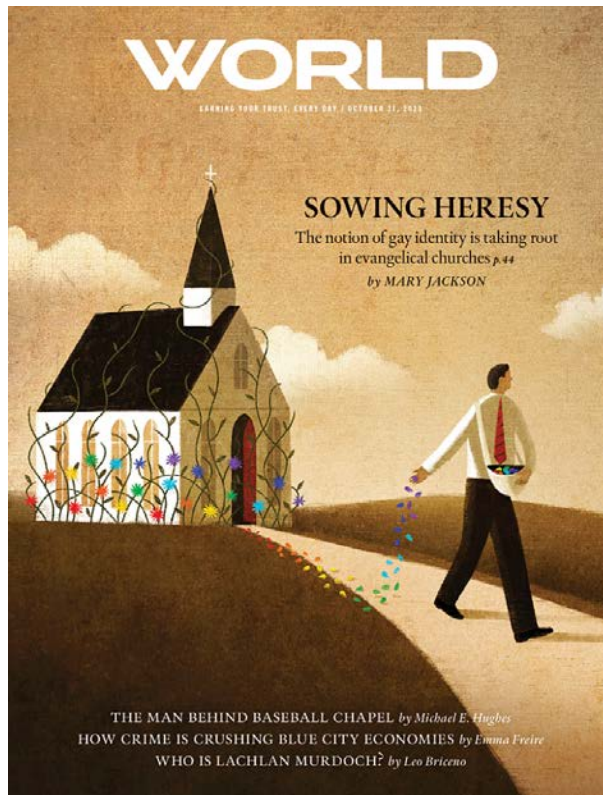
Only chemists need to know all of that. Everyone doesn't need to know that potassium is what?



K. That's always messed me up. I thought it should be P...but, P is Phosphorus! ☺

You see, I've not used the quadratic equation since high school. I'm not saying these things are bad...but, I really want to know who came up with this system...the idea that every kid needed to know all of these random things? I would argue that we waste a tremendous amount of time in our education system, because we're training like Greeks instead of Hebrews.

My purpose in saying this is not make anyone mad...I just question things...WHY? No...I say these things to simply make the point that in our homes we're going to have to teach by modeling... that's the Hebraic Model and I would argue that's the Scriptural approach, because that's what **Jesus did with the Apostles**. He taught them and trained them...**life on life** and then **sent them out**. And isn't that what we're to be doing in our homes? LIFE ON LIFE on life...teach, train, instruct, equip and then send them out! Watch this quote from Marvin Olansky of *World*:



a Christian Publication of news of the day from a Christian Perspective.

“The prime purpose of Christian education is not to instill in students a certain set of behaviors, although that may be a side effect of good teaching and learning. It’s not even to put into our children’s heads a certain amount of factual information, although a well-stocked memory is a great aid. No, our greatest educational task is to help our children see the hand of God in all things and to give Him glory. You see Christianity isn’t a hobby we play around with when we are not doing more important things.” Marvin Olansky, *World*

Turn in your Bibles to Psalm 78. This passage is really a historical accounting of the nation of Israel. It’s 72 verses long and it was used to teach, train and equip in the Hebrew home.

Psalm 78:1-8

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, ⁷ so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; ⁸ and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Dad...are you faithfully teaching and training? And I say: “Dad,” because so often we are not fulfilling that role in our homes. We’re to be the spiritual leader. Dad is anything different happening in your home since the beginning of this sermon series 2 months ago? I pray it’s not going in one ear and out the other. I pray that we’ll be **more than hearers of the word! We’ll be doers of the word!**

Dad it’s your job to teach. Are you doing family devotions 2-3 times a week? You say, “How do I do it?” You pull out a Bible and you read out loud...that’s how you do it. You think about it...just as much

as you do your best client and their needs. You ponder it, like you do your kids' ball team...since you coach...and you think about how to win games a lot...how about how to win at home?

Let me give you an example...you know Jesus set the example...He taught telling stories and kids love stories... When my kids were little, I used a **white board**...like this...and I would teach right after supper...oh, you do have time to have supper at home 2-3 nights a week don't you? If you don't, you're **too busy**.

I would draw on it...and use it to tell stories...like David vs Goliath...Goliath down in the valley...shouting taunts at the army of Israel...David up on the bank asking: "What is he doing taunting God like this. I'll fight him." And down in the valley he went and he picked up five smooth stones and put them in his pouch. Who can draw me a pouch. Come do it...and then he put a stone in his sling and slung it...and hit the giant in the head and killed him.

I would draw Israel and show them that the Sea of Galilee was connected to the Dead Sea by the Jordan River and Jesus lived 90 miles from Jerusalem. I bet any of my kids could draw this map today.

Dad...would you be inspired today and actually make up your mind to start leading, teaching and modeling in this way? It's your job and it's time. You, DAD, can change the entire dynamic in your home if you will pray and ask the Lord to help you. Just get a Bible and start...think about it...be creative.

Now, before we leave this idea of parenting by modeling, I want to take a few moments and talk to you about the three types of parents:

The Three Types of Parents:

- 1 Permissive (too soft)**
 - 2 Authoritarian (too hard)**
 - 3 Authoritative and Responsive (just right)**
-

Now, as we go through these...see if you can identify which one you are. (Think of Godlilocks.)

#1 Permissive-Does everything for the child. You want to be your child's friend. You don't want them to suffer or hurt and so you carry around an imaginary pillow to provide for them a soft landing at every turn. Sometimes these parents are called "helicopter parents." But the truth is: what these parents are, are maids... You're running a Hampton Inn and you're the maid. Your kids run the house, you don't. So, they've got a slave for a momma and a daddy. You're both scared to death of your 30-pound child and "No" seldom comes from your mouth. In essence, "the inmates are running the asylum." That's the permissive parent. Is that you? Let me tell you how you can tell. Permissive Parents who have "child-run" homes will be heard saying things like:

1. I can't make that for dinner at our house, the kids just won't eat it
2. I prepare meals in two batches—one for the adults and one for the kids
3. We can't have that family over to our house, my kids wouldn't enjoy being around their kids
4. We can't have people over to our house because our kids won't mind
5. We can't go there; the kids would just get bored
6. We can't take our kids into church service; they'd never last (but you take them everywhere else)
7. We'll probably be changing teachers or possibly schools because our "little Bobby" doesn't enjoy Mrs. So & So

8. Well, my little Junior just...well he refuses to _____, so we don't make him
9. I don't want him/her to hate me...
10. You don't expect your child to go anywhere without access to a screen to babysit them

I'll just say this about the Permissive Parent: "Whatever you allow in **moderation** your children will take to **excess!**"

The Three Types of Parents:

- 1 Permissive (too soft)
- 2 Authoritarian (too hard)
- 3 Authoritative and Responsive (just right)

#2 Authoritarian—This parent is always right and you "Lord over" their child with an iron fist and they run your home like a dictator. Their children are scared to death of them, and they don't feel love...they feel fear. Children in this home are usually very anxious and worried. The child in an Authoritarian's home never feels secure and internalizes fear and doubt. Children in this environment either stay in a cocoon or act out in anger and violence. Too hard. All rules and no relationship will lead to rebellion.

The Three Types of Parents:

- 1 Permissive (too soft)
- 2 Authoritarian (too hard)
- 3 Authoritative and Responsive (just right)

#3 Authoritative and Responsive—this is the parent that finds that middle ground. This is:



Goldilocks. They've found the porridge that's just right...not too hot and not too cold...JUST RIGHT. This parent has realistic expectations based on their child's age, temperament and maturity. They love the child unconditionally, but has expectations of them, nonetheless. They are responsive to disobedience without reacting in anger and hostility, and there are consequences for disobedience that's fair and equitable for the infraction. The discipline is consistent and loving. There are no entitlements in this home...no helicopters sitting around...and no sign in the yard that says: Hampton Inn.

This parent is authoritative...not an authoritarian, but authoritative...meaning, they don't allow the child to argue with them. They understand they're not trying to "persuade" their child to obey; (you're not trying to win a court case), no, you're "expecting" your child to obey. This parent also expects their child to obey immediately...delayed obedience is disobedience, it's that simple. This parent

speaks a command one time, calmly and clearly. They don't threaten, and if they're "bucked," they follow through with the appropriate discipline. This parent is consistent...and they do what they say. That's the authoritative side.

But there's the responsive side. This parent understands what all children want and crave: To be loved. To be accepted. To be parented...to be disciplined when they do wrong (because this shows you care...because, you're not going to leave them to themselves to get away with disobedience and disrespect.) Remember from last week?

Proverbs 29:15

¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 29:17

¹⁷ Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

Never forget mom and dad...children want you to be proud of them. That's why they bring you things they've drawn, flowers they've picked and arms stretched wide for your hugs. That's the **Authoritative and Responsive Parent**, and that's the one we're shooting for!

How To Train Our Children:

1 Teach and Model

2 Managing What's Allowed in the Home (Gatekeepers)

3 Help Them Own Their Own Faith

Turn in your Bibles to Philipians 1. Now as we talk about the importance of what we allow into our homes, I want to use this passage from Philipians 1:8-11 and as we read it, I want you to see what the goal is for our homes.

Philipians 1:8-11

⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

We want our children to grow in knowledge and discernment...so that can know what is excellent and be filled with righteousness which will bring glory and praise to God. You see, one of the biggest issues we have in our day is the lack of good decision making. We've got to teach our children how to make godly decisions. See the screens: One of my favorite preachers of all time is this man:



Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892), the amazing British pastor known as the "Prince of

Preachers.” He said this:

“Discernment is not a matter of simply telling the difference between right and wrong; rather, it is telling the difference between right and almost right.” Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Mom and Dad, can your children “approve” what is excellent? Not just good...but excellent? The word, “**approve**” in verse 10 is a word that is used to describe the **testing of metal** to determine its properties, purity and value...to make sure coins weren’t counterfeit.

You see, the problem in our culture...what is presented as “right and good” is actually “wrong and bad.” So many young people have their worldview totally set by cellphones and friends who are not living for Jesus. It burdens me for our young people because they’re not living on the Deserted Island with the Bible only.



Most Christians teenager never read the Bible, therefore they’re not able to approve what is excellent and right. On their deserted island they have TikTok, Hollywood, Music that’s anything but wholesome...Instagram...and on and on I could go. And this is the stuff we pay for and allow into our homes as young as 10 and 11 years old. Kids that young don’t need access to the internet unabated.

You see, **WORLDVIEWS DON’T COME WITH WARNING LABELS**. Kids need help in discerning what they’re seeing and hearing and that’s why you need to debrief your kids every day about what they’re seeing, hearing and learning. You need all their passwords, and if they buck that, you take their cellphone. You’re paying for it...and it’s not a lack of trust in your kid...no...**you’re being a gatekeeper** and you’re caring for your child...as momma bear protects her cubs. And I would encourage you to get software protection for your kids. Check into Covenant Eyes.



protect your children from the evils of the internet...so much of the internet is a sewer line from Hell.

Listen our kids are being taught that babies in the womb are blobs of tissue. They’re being told that their sex is fluid and can change based on what they feel. They’re told to follow the science, oh...but not when it comes to the fact that XX chromosomes mean you’re a girl, and XY chromosomes mean you’re a boy. They’re told they came from an explosion in space billions of years ago and that Adam and Eve weren’t real people and never existed. They’re told you can be born gay and the Bible can’t

be trusted, because it was written by men. And perhaps most of all, they're told you can't say anything to offend anybody...that is the worst sin of all. Everyone gets to be whatever they want to be and nothing is a sin. And those are all lies!

Mom and Dad, you've got to teach your children the truth...you can't assume they know the truth just because they live in your home...they don't get the truth through osmosis. They've got to be taught it and perhaps one the most important things you can do for your children is to teach them that's it's okay to feel peculiar...to be different from the world...to be followers of Jesus...not followers of friends or the culture. It's standing in the chair (that we've talked about so many times).

How To Train Our Children:

1. **Teach and Model**
 2. **Managing What's Allowed in the Home**
 3. **Help Them Own Their Own Faith**
-

Turn in your Bibles to Colossians 1:9-12. I want to show this passage of Scripture with Clara's name in...you INSERT YOUR CHILD'S NAME. (When I taught this 11 years ago, she was 7.)

Colossians 1:9-12

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for **CLARA**, asking that **CLARA** may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so **CLARA** will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ **CLARA** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks^d to the Father, who has qualified **CLARA** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Mom and Dad...your child has a spiritual box and they're given that box by you as you teach and train them...they place experiences, devotions, coming to church...what you teach them, into that box Initially that box has your name written on it, but at some point, they have to do this



they've got to put a line through your name and write theirs. They've got to own their own faith! It's got to be theirs. So, let me ask you a question...**can they articulate their faith?** "Tell me what Jesus is doing in your life." If they can't, and they're a teen, then you've got a problem.

How can you tell if they own their faith? You listen to their conversations, what they talk about with their friends? Are your children different from the world? Are they spiritual at all? Do they have desire

to go to church. If they're saved, they should. The point is...you shouldn't have to guess if your teenager is saved. You ought to be able to tell by their actions. Their name should be on their box...



But next week: We'll talk about those children who have walked away (Prodigal).

How To Train Our Children:

1. Teach and Model
 2. Managing What's Allowed in the Home
 3. Help Them Own Their Own Faith
-

I want to close with what I believe are FIVE of the most important things we can do for our children.

FIVE IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN DO FOR CHILDREN

1. Make Family Devotions a priority in your home
 2. Simplify and de-fragment your life making sure you have time for the things of God. (Don't overload your schedule with too many outside activities.)
 3. Talk with your child, debrief and communicate daily. Talk, Talk, Talk (understand what they're thinking and feeling *don't assume*.) Understand that bedtime conversations are critical
 4. Eat meals together around a table, have fun together, read books together.
 5. Pray over your children out loud regularly (this will carry them through the hard times in their lives)
-

These things don't guarantee that your children will grow up and follow Jesus, but what we've talked about the past two weeks can, and with much prayer and God's grace, lead us to one day say:

3 John 4

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
