

9/17/23

Helping Kids Develop a Personal Relationship with Jesus

1. **BE CLEAR** about what it means to follow Jesus.

- There is a **CHOICE** to make.

"...Choose you this day whom ye will serve ..." Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

- There is a **COMMITMENT** to keep.

"And He said to Him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (ESV)

- There is a **COST** to pay.

"If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first. If you were of the world, it would love you as its own. Instead, the world hates you, because you are not of the world..." John 15:18-19 (BSB)

2. **FIGHT** on your children's behalf.

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

"...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1b (NLT)

**How do we fight for our kids?
Prayer, Fasting, Guardrails,
Discipline, and Sound Teaching**

3. **EQUIP** your children for *spiritual resilience*.

- **Navigate, personalize and apply scripture.**

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

“For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV)

- **Become familiar with apologetics works.**

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

- **Learn to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit.**

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13 (NIV)

4. **BE THE PERSON** you want them to become.

*“Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though He was God, did not demand and cling to His rights as God, but laid aside His mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And He humbled Himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal’s death on a cross.”
Philippians 2:5-8 (LB)*

Keep the conversation going...

1. Who helped shape your spiritual development?
2. What role does active participation in church and Bible study play in generational faith?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-8. How can you implement God’s instructions to “teach your children?” What could that look like in your home?
4. How do you weave your faith into relationships beyond your family? (Serving in ministry, reaching out in your neighborhood, faith sharing, etc.)