

Pastor John Miller, 06-20-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do If...I Was Parenting or Influencing a Child?

Purp.: Provoke parents or anyone influencing a child to raise them according to Biblical precepts.

Truth for Today: If I raise or influence children to follow God's ways, they'll have the best life possible.

Topic: Discipleship, Father's Day, Parenting, Children

Text: Psalm 127: 3

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

## What Would I Do If...I Was Parenting or Influencing a Child?

### I. Introduction

- A. Text: Biblical viewpoint of children, [Psalm 127:3 (ESV) Behold, children are a heritage (*NLT gift*) from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.] Some see kids as a nuisance or problem, but God sees their potential to be good and do good if raised by godly parents or influenced by godly people like coaches, teachers, or neighbors.
- B. Today, on Father's day, we'll ask our series question, What Would I Do If...I Was Parenting or Influencing a Child? This will apply to anyone raising or influencing a child at any age. If you're a child or teen, you may be surprised at what the Bible says about you. Rather than look at 1 Bible character, we're going to survey the Bible to see what Biblically inspired authors said about family, parenting, and children.
- C. Title: What Would I Do If...I Was Parenting or Influencing a Child?

### II. God's plan for the ideal family and our dilemma

- A. [Genesis 2:24 (ESV) Therefore a **man** shall leave his **father and his mother** and hold fast to his **wife**, and they shall become **one flesh**.] God's best plan for families is For a Christian man and a Christian woman to make a lifelong covenant in marriage, be happy and raise godly kids. Sadly, we don't live in a 'Leave it to Beaver' world.
  - 1. Siri Stats (1) # single parent homes America? 11 million, 80% led by single mom. Hardest job in America. (2) Kids in foster care 9 million over 10 years/ 368k in 2022. (3) 900k divorces a year, 1 every 30 seconds. 60% have at least 1 child.
  - 2. Life App #1: No family is perfect, but God will help us raise or influence good, godly kids if we follow His ways.

### III. Biblical principles for parenting and influencing children

- A. #1 Moses, [Deut. 6:6-7 (NLT) And you must commit yourselves **wholeheartedly** to these **commands** that I am giving you today. <sup>7</sup> Repeat them **again and again** to your children (*MSG get them inside your children*). Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.] Life App #2: It's not enough to teach kids God's Word on Sunday. We must use everyday situations to teach kids Biblical truth. E.g. PJ Chicken Express.
- B. #2 Solomon, [Pr. 22:6 (NIV) Start, (*ESV train, MSG point your children in the right direction*) children off on the way they should go, and even when they are **old they will not turn from it.**] What is the right direction and where do we find it? Hospital handbook? Siri? College professor? Life App #3: The Bible, God's Word is the source

of truth to help us distinguish right from wrong. [2 Tim. 3:15–16 (NLT) You have been **taught the holy Scriptures from childhood**, ...<sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is inspired by God** and is useful to teach us what is **true** and to make us realize what is **wrong**... It...teaches us to do what is **right**.] E.g. COTR help, 3 Pics KZ, IBQ, PH

- C. #3 Paul, [2 Tim. 1:5 (NLT) I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your **grandmother Lois** and your **mother, Eunice**. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.] Timothy's dad wasn't a Christian, but he became Paul's successor because mom and grandma followed Jesus. Life App #4: You don't have to have 2 perfect parents to raise good, godly kids.
- D. #4 James, [James 1:27 (NLT) Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for **orphans** (*NIV look after them*) and widows in their distress...] Def. orphan: an abandoned or neglected child. Siri 1.3 million homeless and runaway kids in America. In America 2-3k kids commit suicide yearly and hundreds of thousands around the world. Why? Pic 2 girls. What's the difference? Who's raising and influencing them and what they're taught. E.g. COTR cares, hotel kids Salvation Army summer program. Gave \$150 each to sponsor 9 kids and 2 people take and pick up daily. Life App #5: If biological parents can't or won't raise good, godly kids, you and I can help by showing kids the love of Jesus and giving them hope and support.

#### IV. What does the Bible expect of children, both young and old? TEENAGERS

- A. Paul, [Eph. 6:1–3 (NLT) **Children, obey your parents** (*def. obey: do what they say with an attitude of submission*) **because you belong to the Lord**, for this is the **right thing to do**.] This is how Christian kids behave. It's not dependent on what parents do or don't do. The only exception is if they ask you to disobey God, e.g. steal.
- [Vs. 2 "**Honor your father and mother**." (*Def. honor: respect, care and provide for if needed*) This is the first **commandment** with a **promise**:<sup>3</sup> **If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."**] Life App #6: Obedience turns to honor when kids become adults. God will bless us and we'll reap what we sow when we're old.
- B. Solomon: [Pr. 23:22 (ESV) **Listen** to your father... 1:8 (NLT) My child, **listen** when your father **corrects you**. Don't neglect your mother's **instruction**. 13:24 (NCV) If you do not **punish** your children (*when they do wrong*)...you don't love them, but if you love your children, you will **correct** them. 22:15 (NLT) A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but **physical discipline** will drive it far away.]
- Life App #7: Parents are to provide instruction and teaching, correction and discipline. Kids need to say yes sir and yes mam and do it. If they don't the parents are responsible to discipline. E.g. PJ Chandelier lasso sister.
- C. Kids you need to be grateful if you have parents who try to teach you God's ways and do what's right in life. For most people, no one will ever love you more than your parents or the person who raises you. E.g. Cantu moved here son prison

#### V. Conclusion:

- A. Adults: One of the most important things we can do for the kids we're raising or influencing is to pray for them. E.g. PJ every day, thank God, LaNell, kids, family
- B. Prayer: Adults: the kids in your life; Kids: the people raising or influencing you.

C. Souls: The most important thing we can do for people is to tell them the Good News about Jesus. God's Love-Problem sin-Solution cross- Decision to believe and follow

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

VII. Supplemental material

- A. Jesus loves kids, [MT. 19:13–15 (NLT) One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. <sup>14</sup> But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” <sup>15</sup> And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.
- B. Paul’s spiritual son, [1 Timothy 1:2 (NIV) To **Timothy my true son in the faith**: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.]
- C. #3 Joshua, [Josh. 24:15 (NLT), if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served, But as for me and my family (ESV house), we will serve the Lord." ] Life App #4: Raising and influencing good, godly kids starts with a commitment from parents and influencers to choose to live by God's commands and kids are likely to follow. E.g. Bethany