

Equipping Parents to Raise Godly Kids

Presenter: Melissa Minter



Statistics

- Fewer than 10% of parents who regularly attend church with their kids read the Bible together, pray together (other than at mealtimes), or participate in an act of service as a family unit. However, 3 out of every 4 of those same church parents believe they are doing well when it comes to providing a regular regiment of spiritual experiences and instruction to their children. (Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003)
- More than 4 out of 5 parents believe they have the primary responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of their children, but more than two out of three of them abdicate that responsibility to their church. (Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003)
- Only 1 out of every 20 families has any type of worship experience together with their kids, other than while they are at church during a typical month. (Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003)
- Among kids 8 to 12 years old, one-third spend about 31 hours per week with their mom and an average of 23 hours weekly with their dad. A great majority of this time is spent driving to and from various activities. (Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003)
- The average person between the ages of 8 and 18 spends approximately 44.5 hours each week engaging with some form of media. (Bringing Up Girls, 2010)
- There are three tiers of influence in a child's life. Media and parents are in the first tier. Schools and siblings are in the second tier. Churches are in the third tier. (Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, 2003)

Scriptural Mandates

- “And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4 NASB).
- Moses finished speaking these words to Israel, and he said to them, “set your heart on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life” (Deuteronomy 32:45–47, NKJV).
- “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:6–9, NIV).
- “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15 NIV).
- “He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children (Psalm 78:5,6 NIV).

The Developing Leaders, Impacting Kids podcast is produced by International Children's Ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy International Offices. We develop leaders by providing quality and accessible training experiences, producing relevant resources for local church ministry, and cultivating a community of support and encouragement. To learn more about our certification program, training intensives, and institutes of children's ministry, please visit www.cogop.org/children.



Balance

God has set up the church as a place of training, fellowship, and accountability. It was not designed to _____ the parents as the primary spiritual disciplers of their children.

Perceived Obstacles

- Families are so busy. There is no time for one more thing on their to-do list.
- Parents do not know how to spiritually train their children.
- Parents believe that taking their children to church fulfills their responsibility to spiritually train their children.
- Parents and children worship separately in most services.
- The parents are not believers in Christ.
- Many children are being raised by a single parent with little or no influence from the other parent.
- The parents were sent to church by their parents, and they turned out fine.

Solutions

- Training
- Resources
- Information Sharing/Involvement

Passing on Deep Faith in an Age-Appropriate Way

- Modeling
- Formal Instruction
- Prayer
- Creative Applications
- Personal Experiences

Resources

Books

Barna, George. TRANSFORMING CHILDREN INTO SPIRITUAL CHAMPIONS. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light Publications, 2003. ISBN: 978-0830732937

Fowler, Larry. RAISING A MODERN-DAY JOSEPH. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-4347-6705-9

Fowler, Larry. ROCK SOLID KIDS. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light Publications, 2005. ISBN: 978-0830737130

Holman, Mark. FAITH BEGINS AT HOME. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light Publications, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-8307-8313-7

Staal, David. LEADING KIDS TO JESUS. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006. ISBN: 978-0310263821

Trent, John. PARENTS' GUIDE TO THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF CHILDREN: HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP A PERSONAL FAITH. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishing. ISBN: 9781561797912

Weddle, Linda Massey. HOW TO RAISE A MODERN-DAY JOSEPH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GROWING GREAT KIDS. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2010. ISBN: 978-1434765314

Weidmann, Jim. AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY NIGHTS: FAMILY NIGHTS TOOL CHEST. Heritage Builders Inc. 1997. ISBN: 978-0781400961. Available at <http://www.amazon.com>

Websites

Online training lab: www.kidology.org; "Leadership Lab #4, Partnering with Parents"

Family resources: D6: www.d6family.com

Family resources: <http://familytimes.org>

Family resources/partnering with parents: <http://www.biblicalparenting.org>

Inexpensive devotional books for kids: <http://www.cbhministries.org/kfk/home.php>

Child Evangelism Fellowship website for kids to use: <http://www.wonderzone.com/>

Sponsor a child: <http://www.compassion.com>