

BIG IDEA

Raise your child with a biblical framework in a confusing culture that attempts to undermine the gospel.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- *We should obey God because we love Him* (John 14:15).
- *We should train children in the right way* (Prov. 22:6).
- *We should do our best for God* (1 Cor. 10:31).
- *We should tell the world why we love God* (1 Pet. 3:15).
- *We should set an example for the world* (Titus 2:7-8).



KEY QUESTIONS YOUR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILD IS ASKING

- How can learning what the Bible says help me live?
- Why should I choose to obey God?
- How can I tell other people about God?



AT THIS AGE MOST ELEMENTARY CHILDREN WILL ...

- Be eager to learn how they fit into the world.
- Start taking on responsibilities and facing challenges.
- Begin to think abstractly.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Children at this age learn best through discovery. Activities involving such things as solving puzzles, taking things apart, and discovering how things are made will help your child engage in and understand the concepts you teach.
- Younger elementary age kids are learning to distinguish between fantasy and reality. Leading your child to understand that God's Word is true and that it never changes is foundational to her spiritual growth.
- Although relationships with peers are becoming more important at this age, parents remain the most important influence in a child's life. Because children are very observant, the example you set will have a great impact on your child. Your child will be watching as you live out what you teach him about God and His truths.



COACHING TIPS

- Because children learn in a variety of ways (visual, reflective, musical, etc.), consider how your child learns best and use those approaches as you teach and reinforce biblical concepts.
- Your child may ask a lot of questions. Instead of always giving an answer, encourage your child to discover the answer by providing him with age-appropriate resources or thought-provoking statements or questions. Work together to discover the biblical truth.
- Every important truth and concept should be grounded in Scripture. Lead your child to understand that what God thinks about something (as stated in the Bible) is always the truth and will never change. Teach (and model) that we are to live our lives based on God's truth, not on what the world around us says or does.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF ...** After your child obeys a request you make, evaluate the situation with her. For example, if she goes to bed on time the night before a test instead of staying up late, discuss what might have happened if she hadn't gotten enough sleep. Explain that you set rules because you love her and want the best for her. God does the same for us. Rules and boundaries aren't to punish us but to keep us from making harmful choices. Point out that we should obey God out of our love for Him, just as your child should obey you out of love.
- **I'VE BEEN THINKING ...** As you and your child run errands, discuss ways to tell people about God. Talk about God's love for all people in your community and how you would like your family to find ways to show God's love to them. Encourage suggestions from your child and make plans to follow through with an idea.
- **TELL ME ABOUT ...** Encourage your child to tell you about a project, paper, extracurricular activity, or chore that she has been working on. Ask her about the time spent on it, how much she enjoyed the activity, how she feels the project turned out, and so forth. Remind her that we should always do our best for God, no matter what we are doing.



SAY OR PRAY

- We obey God because we love Him.
- God's truth is the only truth, and it never changes.
- We should find ways to tell other people about God.