

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 study the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15).*
- *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 PRESCHOOLER IS ASKING

- Are Bible stories real or pretend?
- Why can't I see God?
- What does God want me to learn?



AT THIS AGE MOST PRESCHOOLERS WILL ...

- Ask countless questions about the world around them.
- Have a limited attention span.
- Think in only literal terms and ideas.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

- Preschoolers are ready to learn when their basic physical and emotional needs are met. Some of these needs include love, trust, acceptance, and security. Providing for these essential needs will make children more receptive to the lessons and truths you teach them.
- Because children are literal thinkers and learn through their senses, involving them in hands-on activities can help children remember what they learn, as well as learn how to apply these truths in their lives (with coaching, of course).
- Preschoolers learn largely through relationships and imitation. Their principal source of biblical understanding comes from their parents or teachers. Through your teaching and behavior, you essentially represent God and His Word to your preschooler.



COACHING TIPS

- Repetition is key in shaping a child's mind and teaching him important concepts. He will be a better learner and become more confident about the Bible and its foundational truths. Different approaches to teaching the same concept will also help etch the truth in his heart.
- Building a firm foundation of acceptance and trust will make your preschooler more receptive and keep an open channel of communication between you and your child as she grows. If she trusts you, then she will accept what you teach her as truth despite what she may learn from culture, friends, or media.
- Remember to root every important truth and concept in Scripture. Explain often that God's truth is the only truth, and that it never changes. Talking about these truths often will help kids shape a gospel-centric worldview.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- **DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN ... ?** During casual conversations, reference foundational Bible stories he knows and create a connection between real life and Bible application. For example, if your child mentions that a classmate fell on the playground, discuss the story of the good Samaritan. Ask him how he could act like the good Samaritan at school. Emphasize that we should always show God's love to others.
- **WHO DO YOU KNOW?** When the name of someone you know comes up in conversation, use this as an opportunity to illustrate God's love for people. You can discuss why God loves this person, and bring up ways you can show love to her. Teach your child to see everyone as God sees them.
- **WHY DID I DO THAT?** When you ask your child to do something, such as a chore, ask her why she thinks you wanted her to do it. Discuss why it was important for her to obey, and emphasize the connection between love and obedience. Mention that, in the same way, we obey God's Word because we love Him.



SAY OR PRAY

- God loves us.
- God wants us to obey Him.
- The Bible is true.



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.