



What are the essentials for Christian parenting?

How do we rightly direct the thinking, behaviour, and faith development of our children? Here are 10 biblical principles:

1. **Make Jesus # 1 in your life.** Good parenting starts on the inside – it’s a heart issue. Are you squeezing Jesus out or letting Him in? If you want Jesus to be your child’s first love, He must be your first love (Luke 10:27).
2. **Prioritize daily Bible engagement.** What goes in is what comes out. Fill your heart and mind with truth and your children will hear you speaking truth (Luke 6:45).
3. **Serve like Jesus.** Be more preoccupied with giving than getting. Think of your family before yourself. (Philippians 2:5, 7). Be responsible, and your children will be responsive.
4. **Share the Gospel.** Not telling children about Jesus is antithetical to loving them. Communicate the Good News and teach sound doctrine every day (Romans 10:14).
5. **Showcase Jesus.** Point out His handiwork in creation. Identify His grace and mercy in the joys and challenges of life. Forgive and restore. Define, order, and live your life for Jesus (Mark 5:19).
6. **Establish values, vision, and structure.** Communicate Jesus’ purpose and priorities for the family (Matthew 6:33). Give clear directions. Help children turn biblical values into kingdom behaviours.
7. **Manage mishaps and misconduct.** Establish stable behavioural boundaries. Encourage and correct with consistency, respect, and love. Discipline the way the Lord disciplines you (Hebrews 12:5-11).
8. **Inspire trust and obedience.** Aim for internal transformation, not external compliance. Help children grow in wisdom and favour with Jesus and others (Luke 2:51-52).
9. **Take the long view.** Focus on what lasts, not what’s temporary (Matthew 6:19-21). Don’t sweat the small stuff. Treat setbacks as stepping-stones to success. Enjoy the family God’s given you.
10. **Trust Jesus for everything.** Don’t assume you know it all (Proverbs 3:5-6). Take your troubles and doubts to Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). Ask for help, and pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17).