



When should we start nurturing a child's faith development?

Most people's first memories are events that happened when they were 4 or 5 years of age. Many children start school at 5 years of age. Should we begin nurturing a child's faith development when they start school?

Remarkably, a baby in the womb can hear and process what's being heard at 30 weeks of gestational age. Babies in the womb learn to recognize words, listen to music, and at birth can demonstrate what they've heard.

By 4 years of age, most of the basic skills for life, like talking, walking, reasoning, eating, and dressing, are established.

Theorists suggest that children have 50% of their adult intelligence by 4 years of age, increasing to 80% by 8 years of age. Their intelligence surpasses their knowledge, yet most children make their major life decisions, including spiritual decisions, by 12 years of age. In high-income countries, this may be as young as 9 years of age.

Every year counts. Start nurturing their faith development before they're born. Read the Scriptures, sing choruses, and pray with babies when they're in the womb. Continue doing this after they're born. Take newborn babies to church services and tell them the stories of Jesus while they're nursing.

Memorizing Scripture can begin with toddlers from 2-3 years of age. Children can sing worship songs and praise the Lord with rhythmic dancing at 3 to 4 years of age.

A child's faith isn't microwaveable ... it's a lifelong journey ... and the most important part of the journey is the start. While we should never try to control or coerce a child's faith development, we can and must guide and guard it from the day it begins in the womb.

A child's faith development is about forming a relationship with Jesus. Connect children with Jesus as soon as possible. John the Baptist leaped for joy when he first met Jesus, and that was when they were both in their mother's wombs (Luke 1:41)!

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