

# RAISING GODLY CHILDREN Part 1: READ GOD'S WORD and PRAY

You have heard me speak about many of the things I'll be teaching on in this teaching series but it bears repeating. The things I'm going to bring out are things that we as adults should be doing in our Christian lives also. So even if you don't have children, let this teaching minister to you.

In a Christian home – the order in the home is God first – next is the husband who is the spiritual head of the household and the ruler of the home regarding decisions that pertain to this material world – then the wife and then the children. Jesus is to be the center and Head over all. As individual Christians – God is always first above anyone else no matter who they are. If you are a single parent – then you are the head of your household and you are the spiritual leader of your household too. If one of the parents is not a Christian – then the one that is will be the spiritual head of the home and they will take on the responsibility of raising their children to be godly children.

Raising your children to be godly – according to God's Word and His will is one of the most important mandates that God gives to each parent. We will all give an account to Christ Jesus our King as to how well we did with this task. God is to be first place in your lives and after Him – your family is the most important thing. I want to encourage those of you who were not Christians while your children were at home – it is not too late. Talk to them now and sow seeds into their lives. Pray for them to be saved. Share the sermons with them. You do not want to stand before Jesus in judgement and say you did nothing and did not even try. Are you too embarrassed to speak to your own child about Jesus? How much more embarrassed will you be telling Jesus you did nothing. A soul is hanging in the balance. You do not want their blood on your hands. Get busy in their lives for God's glory.

And those of you who do not have children, don't tune out. Many times you hold influence over children in your lives. Maybe they are your nephews and nieces or

if you are a teacher, the students that you teach. You can still sow God's Word into their lives too. I know it is harder now for teachers since God has been pushed out of the schools for the most part but maybe you can pick a moment to sow a seed or at least let your light shine for Jesus so they know full well you are a Christian and they can see a difference in how you live and conduct yourself as compared to the world.

God expects us to make the effort to raise our children to be godly children.

**Deut.6:5-7** - And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

The God of The Old Testament is also The God of The New Testament. He expects us to teach our children His Word still today. We should talk about God's Word every day with our children. We should read God's Word and discuss it as a family and with our children. When you go outside the home and as things come up in life, relate it all back to God's Word. Make His Word relevant to our world today by showing them a Biblical world view. A member of this congregation was just sharing with me the other day how her children were asking her why she did not cuss and yet other people that they know do cuss. She is a Christian mom and so she explained that as a Christian we don't talk like that.

**Eph.4:29** - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Corrupt communication is foul language or abusive language. Usually when we use the term curse words we are actually talking about profanity that is profane words. Words that we as Christians should not be saying. Those kind of words do not edify, that is they are not helpful to those who hear them, they do not build them up at all. She went on to explain that the people who were talking like that were not saved and these are people they know and love so they should pray for their salvation. That's exactly what God meant when He said to talk about His

Word when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you get up and when you go to bed. All the time be ready to answer your children's questions Biblically, teach them and be an example to them.

I remember once at the breakfast table I was thanking God for things and Kennedy said but daddy is the one who went to work and made the money for them. So I explained to her that God created daddy and gave him his gifts and talents, his abilities, and his health to be able to keep his job. I showed her how everything comes from God, all the good things are His blessing on our lives. He is The Lord our provider. **(Gen.22:1-18, Deut.2:7, Phil.4:15-23)**

Another big thing I remember teaching Kennedy is why we don't celebrate the pagan holidays anymore and the truth about them. She was very young when God taught us the truth and we asked for forgiveness and repented, which means we got out of those celebrations. They simply are not in our Bibles and those that will not let go of their sin do their best to justify it and continue in it. In the end, they will answer to God for the truth they knew and did not adhere to as well as sins of ignorance. You could say well Christ was born and that's what Christmas is all about. The luciferians have gone a long way in teaching us to celebrate the birthday of their sun god. This was going on long before Jesus was a baby in a manger. And when you look at the early church and what is recorded in our Bibles, they did not celebrate by giving each other presents and spending lots of money on decorations and people. They did not do this when Jesus walked the earth and they did not do it after He ascended to The Father either. I encourage you to listen to the very first teaching I did on Christmas and the real meaning of it. That teaching is only on our website and it is titled "Occult Origins of Christmas." On the sermons page there is a search filter and beside that it says select a tag – Scott made a tag for the holiday messages. You should go there and watch those teachings so you can understand why they are against God. The root of them and where they came from, how they came about. They are pagan feast days in honor of satan and not Jesus and your children need to be taught the truth. It isn't easy to get out of men's traditions, but God will give you the grace and strength to do it.

All the time we should have God's Word on our hearts and minds.

Our job as parents instilling God's Word into our children begins each day when we wake up and ends when we go to bed. It begins all over again the next day. You should be reading God's Word with them and praying with them. Model this in your own life as well so they can see for themselves that you pray and read God's Word daily in your personal walk with God. We want our children to know and love Jesus. We want them to be with us in heaven for all of eternity.

### **READ the BIBLE**



Get them a children's Bible. When they are small, you read to them every day and when they can read – then let them read the Bible to you. They will soak it in like little sponges. Read it and really get animated, make it fun and read the stories over and over. They need spiritual food to grow spiritually; they need to be fed God's Word.

**Romans 10:17** - So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

They need to hear the good news about Christ. So that they can have faith and the more they hear the more their faith will grow. Faith comes to them the same way it comes to us, they must hear about Jesus and God's Word. This should already be a daily habit of yours, so help to make a daily habit for them too.



Jesus said let the little children come unto Me. **(Matt.19:14)** Be sure you bring your child to Jesus as soon as possible.

Kennedy had a toddler Bible, then she graduated up to a Bible that could go until about the age of 8 or 9. Then at that point she had a regular Bible.

## **PRAYER**

Teach them how to pray by letting them see and hear you pray. Pray with them and for them.

Start the day with God. One of the first things that happens in most homes is breakfast. Whether kids are home schooled or they go to public school, usually breakfast is first. Teach them about giving God thanks for their food.

**1 Timothy 4:4** - For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Everything God created is good we should not reject any of it but rather receive it with thanks. When we thank God for it He blesses it.



Pray at mealtimes. Sometimes let them lead the prayers too.

After breakfast we always had what I called Bible time at my house and we still do it today. Kennedy and I sing songs of praise to The Lord, then we pray over our reading of God's Word. We read the Bible and discuss it and then we close that time with prayer. We take turns praying each day over the reading and the close of our home service. Instill something like this in your morning routine before you send them off to school or before you start your day. This is how you start your day with God. And teach them that they can go to the Lord in prayer anytime. He is always listening and He loves them and wants to hear from them. Teach them to lift up in prayer anything they are worried about or anything on their hearts.

**1 Peter 5:7** - casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Care in this passage is your worries or anxieties, everything you care about or are concerned about. This way they will learn to talk with God throughout the day. Teach them to pray for others. Show them when God answers their prayers or the prayers you pray together. Remind them of this so they can understand that God is always listening and that He does answer our prayers.

Teach them how to approach God because He is holy and we should always be reverent to Him. We should honor Him and be mindful of how we speak to Him.

**Psalm 100:4** - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, *and* bless His name.

This is speaking of the Israelites physically entering into the gates of the temple with thanksgiving and entering into His courts with praise. Apply this to your prayer life spiritually. When you enter into prayer, you are coming before the God and Lord of all creation. You also want to enter into the spiritual gates with thanksgiving to God. And then you also want to enter into His spiritual courts with praise. He is worthy of all our praise.

Teach them to say bedtime prayers every night.



We prayed with Kennedy kneeling beside her bed every night for many years.



Get in there with your kids and teach them to reverence the Lord and to pray each night before bed.

One of the first things God asked me to do when I was a baby Christian was to home school Kennedy. It isn't always easy but I praise God she is receiving a Christian education. Her school teaches the Bible and the subjects are related back to God and His Word, especially Science. She starts her school day with Bible being the first subject and they praise and worship God with songs, they memorize Scripture and learn the Bible. I encourage each of you to home school your child if you are able. Don't be lazy and think you just want to lay around the house and have all that time to yourself and send your kid off to school when you could actually home school them yourself. You will answer to Jesus. There are many people that would love to home school their children but aren't able to because they have to work.

The public schools are teaching ungodly things and getting filthier all the time. If you can't home school them because you work or you are a single parent or whatever the case may be, then do your best to put them in a Christian school if possible.

## **PRAYER**