



Introduction

Eph. 6:4 tells us to instruct ("put into the mind") our children. We instruct to build inner convictions.

Prov. 22:6a says, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." All of us are inclined to go our own way. Without instruction in the way we "should" go we will wander.

Teaching is one of the primary means of fulfilling God's directions to parents in training their children in the way they should go. Though the result of the teaching is up to God, there are a few important conditions or prerequisites parents must understand to maximize the effects of their teaching.

The parent as a _____

1. Prerequisites for teaching in the home

- Recognize that a child lacks understanding and needs to be taught (Prov 1:2-4)
- Realize that children learn incrementally (Is 28:10)

This kind of teaching is progressive and cumulative. The wise parent learns how to look at all of God's standards and break it down into lessons which can be absorbed bit by bit, day by day, year by year.

- Require that children exercise self-control when you are teaching
 - Movements – sitting still
 - Mouths – being quiet and using appropriate language when responding to others
 - Minds – (Prov 18:15) paying careful attention to instructions, tasks and others

2. How do parents teach?

- Through example – the testimony of your life (Col 3:3; Phil 1:21; 4:9)
- In life situations (Deut 6:6-7; Prov 20:5)
- By questions and answers (Josh 4:6-7; Ex 12:26)
- Formal teaching times
- As an encourager and an evangelist (Eph 6:4)

3. What do parents teach? (Deut 6:1-2; 2 Tim 2:15)

- Fear of God (Prov 9:10)
 - Knowing God (Jer 9:23-24; John 17:3; Phil 3:10)
 - Worshipping God (Ex 34:14; Ps 29:2; 150; John 4:23-24)
 - Teach your child what it means to worship God privately (Matt 6:1-18)
 - Teach your child the essentials of corporate worship (Heb 10:24-25)
 - Pleasing God (1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9, 15; Gal 1:10; Col 3:22-23; John 4:34; 5:30)
- Submission and obedience to authority (Eph 6:1-2; Rom 13:1-7)
 - Parents (Eph 6:1-3)
 - Teachers (Heb 13:17)
 - Government (1 Pet 2:13-15)
 - Church (Heb 13:17)
 - Employers (1 Pet 2:13-14)
 - Submission and obedience is ultimately a matter of the heart (Prov 2:1-7)
- How to deal with sin (Prov 8:13a)
 - Dealing with personal sin (Prov 3:7; Matt 7:3; 1 John 8-10; Matt 5:23-24; Luke 19:8)
 - Help them deal with their own sin (Prov 3:7; Matt 7:3)
 - Help them receive forgiveness (1 John 8-10)
 - Help them seek reconciliation (Matt 5:23-24)
 - Help them see the need for restitution (Luke 19:8)
 - Help them learn from failure and encourage them to be ready for the next time
 - Help them see the proper “put ons”
 - Dealing with others’ sin
 - Explain times to flee so they don’t get caught up in the sin of others (Prov 4:14-15; Gen 39:12; 1 Cor 15:33)
 - Teach the importance of returning good for evil (Rom 12:17-21)

- Stress the importance of being a peacemaker (Rom 12:18)
- Teach them how confront sin in a loving manner (Matt 18:15ff; 5:23ff; Gal 6:1; 1 Pet 3:8-9)
- Teach the importance of forgiving others (Eph 4:32)
- Biblical communication (Eph 4:29; Prov 15:2)
 - Listening (Prov 18:13, 15, 17; James 1:19)
 - Speaking

NOTE: What your child says and how he says it is an indication of what is in his heart (Matt. 11:34b). Depending on the age of the child the wise parent must go beyond, "Don't say that!" Instead, ask questions as, "Why are you thinking that?", or, "What are you wanting when you say something like that?" In addition to learning how to speak appropriately, children also need wise parental guidance in learning how to examine their motives.

Scripture clearly addresses foolish speech tendencies such as:

- Lying (Ex. 20:16; Prov.12:22; Col. 3:9). Deal strongly with all dishonesty.
- Rash, sharp words (Prov. 12:18; 29:20)
- Boasting (Prov. 25:14; 27:1)
- Tattling (Ps. 15:3; Prov. 11:13; 16:28; 17:9)
- Meddling (Prov. 26:17; 1 Thess. 3:11)
- Gossip (Rom. 1:29; 1 Cor, 12:20; 1 Tim. 5:13)
- Grumbling and whining (Phil. 2:14)
- Arguing (Prov. 20:3; Phil. 2:14)
- Inappropriate humor (Prov, 26:18,19; Eph 5:4)
- To love and serve others (Phil 2:3; 1 Cor 13:4-7)
 - Show God's example (John 3:16; Phil 2:3-9; John 10:11; Mark 10:42-45)
 - Show Christ's example in the Gospels
 - Teach that love involves basics like being considerate and showing kindness and forbearance (being tolerant) (Eph 4:1-2)
 - Teach that love excludes having an overly critical spirit (1 Cor 13)

- How to deal with desires, expectations and disappointments (Prov 15:16)
 - Desires are good and natural
 - Desires can be recognized as expectations when:
 - We are willing to sin in order to get it [manipulation of people, circumstances, etc.]
 - We are angry and willing to sin both in attitude and action when we don't get it (1 Cor 10:6-14) [self-pity, pouting, grumbling, silence, seething, retaliation, fighting, quarreling]
 - Anything, even good things, can become idols
 - Disappointments are windows to their hearts, so use them to gently point them to God and one of life's issues:
 - Am I willing to entrust my desires to God and His sovereign plan for my life?
 - Will I be content or contentious? (Phil 4ff; 1 Tim 6:6)
- How to handle trials biblically (Rom 8:28-29; James 1; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Prov 3:3-5)
- Stewardship (Prov 21:20; 1 Cor 4:2)
 - Good stewards of time (Ps 90:12; Eph 5:16)
 - Good stewards of their abilities, and bodies (1 Thess 4:3-4; 1 Cor 9:26-27)
 - Good stewards of material blessings
- A biblical work ethic (Col 3:23; Ecc 9:10)
 - When do we work? – most of the time
 - How do we work? – heartily with excellence (Col 3:23; Ecc 9:10)
 - Why do we work? – to please God (Col 3:23)
 - To meet our needs (2 Thess 3:10)
 - To meet the needs of others (Eph 4:28)
- Biblical principles concerning marriage (Eph 5; 1 Pet 3:1-7; Prov 31:10-31)