



# Spiritual Teaching Roles of Parents

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## Teach Our Children Or the World Will

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world**, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (**Rom 12:1-2**)

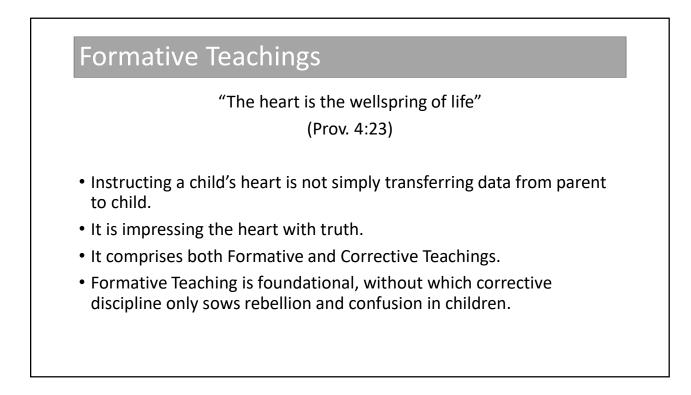
• What mould or pattern do you think our secular culture is seeking to saturate and conform us to through its media and cyberspace?

### The Message To Be Imparted

- "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck" (Proverbs 1:8–9).
- "My son ... receive my words, and treasure my commands within you" (2:1);
- "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands" (3:1);
- "Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding" (4:1);
- "Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many" (4:10);
- "My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings" (4:20);
- "My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding" (5:1);
- "My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother" (6:20);
- "My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you" (7:1)

# Hope and Goal of Parental Teachings

- "My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad;
- my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.
- Do not let your heart envy sinners,
- but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.
- There is surely a future **hope for you**, and your hope will not be cut off.
- Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path" (Prov. 23:15–19).



### Parent's Duty to Teach

"Parents,

if you fail to teach your children to fear God, the devil will teach them to hate God.

If you fail to teach them to guard their minds, the devil will teach them to have a corrupt mind. If you fail to teach them to obey their parents, the devil will teach them to rebel and break their parents' hearts.

If you fail to teach them to select carefully their companions, the devil will choose companions for them.

If you fail to teach them to control their lusts, the devil will teach them how to fulfill their lusts.

If you fail to teach them to enjoy their own spouses, the devil will teach them to destroy their marriages.

If you fail to teach them to watch their words, the devil will fill their mouths with filth.

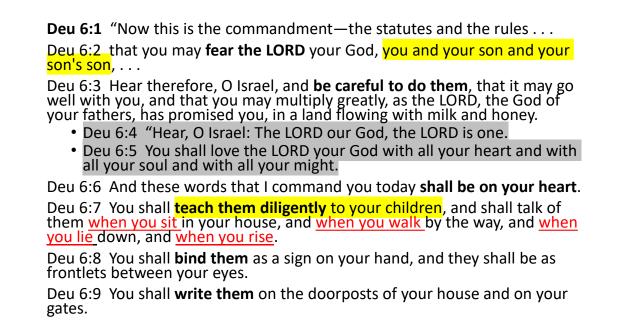
If you fail to teach them to pursue their work, the devil will make their laziness a tool of hell.

If you fail to teach them to manage their money, the devil will teach them to squander it on riotous living. And

if you fail to teach them to love their neighbors, the devil will teach them to love only themselves. We have a great responsibility to this generation and the next."

 John F. MacArthur Jr., <u>What the Bible Says about Parenting: Biblical Principles for Raising Godly Children</u> (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 103–104.





### Structured & Unstructured Teaching Moments

- Mealtimes
- Family Worship
- Teachable moment, on errands, strolls, travelling, receiving news
- Moments for correction and Discipline
- Bedtimes
- Mornings
- Home décor and arrangement
- Sunday Church Worship
- Service to others
- Mission work

# Teaching Moments To Capitalise On

1. List some of the ways that your children are influenced every day by secular culture. How much time are you spending investing in their spiritual growth and development in comparison?

2. Think about the various rhythms of family life as they pertain to the spheres of Home, Community, Church, and World. What are some common events that take place in each sphere—on a daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly basis—that might be captured for family discipleship?

Thompson, Tad. Intentional Parenting: Family Discipleship by Design (p. 76). Cruciform Press. Kindle Edition.

## 4 Spheres of Teaching Moments

#### Home:

- Daily: (e.g., meals)
- Weekly: (e.g., Saturday night before church)
- Monthly: (e.g., family game night)
- Yearly: (e.g., birthdays)

#### Community:

- Daily: (e.g., drive to school)
- Weekly: (e.g., grocery shopping)
- Monthly: (e.g., youth event)
- Yearly: (e.g., Christmas parade)

#### Church:

- Daily: (e.g., conversation with believers)
- Weekly: (e.g., corporate worship)
- Monthly: (e.g., ministry opportunities)
- Yearly: (e.g., Easter service)

#### World:

- Daily: (e.g., watch the world news)
- Weekly: (e.g., missionary email updates)
- Monthly: (e.g., missions offering at church)
- Yearly: (e.g., mission trip opportunities)

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## Teach the Big Story of God and Us

- Deu 6:20 "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?'
- Deu 6:21 then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

### Teach the Bible As the Our Family's Story

- The most effective way to teach our children to love the Scripture is to love it ourselves.
- Teach them to respect parental authority and live within their Godgiven boundaries
- Teach our sinfulness along with Christ's sacrifice for our sins
- Teach promises along with warnings
- Teach stories of sowing and harvesting
- Teach the brevity of life, and the hope beyond

