

The Best Route
The Bible's Principles for Parenting
Parenting Advice – Part 5 of 5
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The Engine: Supernatural Power

God's power is the engine that keeps both parents and the child training process moving forward.

God has promised to give power and wisdom to those committed to Him.

2 Chronicles 16:9a (NASB95) *For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

Galatians 5:16–17 (ESV) *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

James 1:5 (ESV) *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

The Wheels: Setting the Example and Explaining it

- Exemplifying – moves the training forward
- Explaining – provides direction (why's for the example)

According to Scripture, parents are to:

1. First, set the example of doing what God says in their own lives.
2. Then, teach their children to do the same.

Deuteronomy 4:5-6, 9 (MSG) *Pay attention: I'm teaching you the rules and regulations that God commanded me, so that you may live by them in the land you are entering to take up ownership. ⁶ Keep them. Practice them. You'll become wise and understanding. When people hear and see what's going on, they'll say, "What a great nation! So wise, so understanding! We've never seen anything like it." ⁹ Just make sure you stay alert. Keep close watch over yourselves. Don't forget anything of what you've seen. Don't let your heart wander off. Stay vigilant as long as you live. Teach what you've seen and heard to your children and grandchildren.*

The exemplifying and explaining take place in the flow of everyday life.

Deuteronomy 11:18-20 (MSG) *Place these words on your hearts. Get them deep inside you. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning until you fall into bed at night. ²⁰ Inscribe them on the doorposts and gates of your cities.*

My Next Step Today Is to...

- If you haven't already, commit to follow Jesus for the first time.

- I will walk in the Spirit and draw on God's power for parenting and handling life.

- I will commit to work toward setting the example and explaining it to my kids.

The Hi-Impact Training Route

A. EAR—Kindness/Relationship-building— (We've talked a lot about this).

1. Opens the...
 - a. Ear to hear: your children are more likely to listen to your instructions if you have a good relationship with them.
 - b. Mind and heart to receive the instruction, vision, values, and perspective that are being taught:
 - Verbally and
 - Through example.
2. As the “door opener,” kindness and relationship-building are crucial in your approach to all the training steps.

B. MIND—Instruction (saturate/remind/visualize)

1. Helps the child...
 - a. Know and understand concepts.
 - b. Be able to remember these when opportunities for application arise.
2. Deals primarily with WHAT the child needs to know and understand.

C. EYES—Vision-casting

1. Helps the child have a:
 - a. Scripturally accurate and
 - b. Motivating vision of...
 - Who he is and
 - Who, with God's help, he can become.
2. Deals primarily with WHO the child (help them understand who they are in Christ).
 - a. Perceives himself to be and
 - b. Can envision himself becoming.

Attitude: “I can't wait to see what God does through you.”

D. HEART—Value and Perspective Shaping

1. A person's behavioral choices are evaluated in the heart based on what that person deems actually...
 - a. REAL (perspective) and
 - b. Most IMPORTANT (Values).

2. HEART involves helping the child develop...
 - a. His own WHY'S (values and perspectives)—which determine the choices.
 - b. The child makes in line with God's values and perspective (given to us in the Bible).

E. HAND—Application

1. Develops skill and consistency in applying what has been “learned” through the previous steps.
 - a. The application may be clumsy or awkward at first.
 - b. Skill and consistency will develop.
 - By repeated application.
 - Over time.
 - With parental encouragement and training.
2. It helps the child learn WHEN, WHERE, and HOW to use what he has learned.
 - a. When to do this kind of thing—and when not to.
 - b. Where to do it—and where not to do it—and, over time, how to do it well.