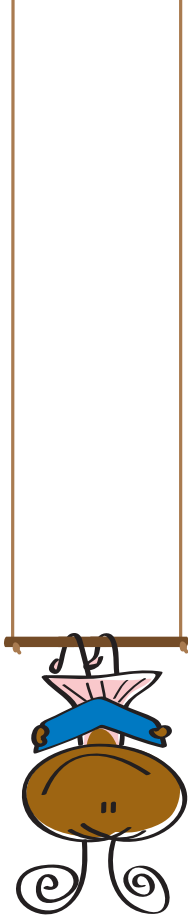




# *A Parent's Guide for Children* Growing Up in God

..... 5 THINGS *for the* FIRST 5 YEARS .....



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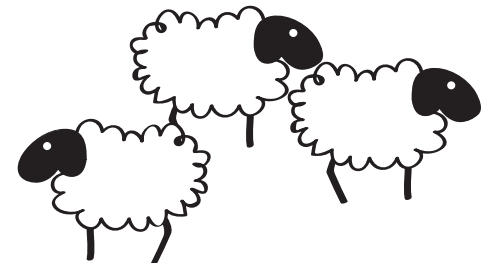
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# First Impressions

Your child was born to believe. You were made to teach.

## HEARTS LIKE SOFT WAX

God pours eternity into developing hearts. He plants seeds of longing and love for him as life takes shape in the hidden place. Before we even see the light of day, he knows us through and through.<sup>1</sup> Spiritual life begins in earnest with life itself.

As God plants in the heart, he also scatters throughout creation and time his boundless miracles to draw us near.<sup>2</sup> Once born and growing, children can believe in God as easily as they breathe. They come to a world made especially for them.

4 He casts the starry night with fireflies dancing to the hum of cicadas. Only God could think of that! He made the consoling puppy licks that bring a smile and soothe a scraped knee. He abides in the unconditional arms on grandma's porch swing. Jesus loves me, *this I know*.

Sharing such miracles of life with a child is one of parenting's greatest pleasures. All of the adult ho-hum familiarity with this world falls away when the first elusive bubble escapes a giggling grasp—an unguarded, precious moment gathered up into eternity like so many more to come. Magical moments like these in early childhood help us experience God's love in subtle and grand

1 Ecclesiastes 3:11, Psalm 139

2 Romans 1:20

3 Saint Thérèse de Lisieux, *The Story of a Soul*, Doubleday: New York, 2001, p. 63.

4 John 6:37-40, Ephesians 1

gestures all around. And with hearts already primed to know him, loving God in return can be as natural as the awe inspired by a rainbow. We were made to love him.

More than 200 years ago Saint Thérèse de Lisieux related her experience caring for two young girls, the oldest being six. "It was a real delight to see how they believed all I told them," she recalls in *The Story of a Soul*.

"Those innocent souls were like soft wax on which any imprint could be stamped—of evil, alas, as well as good," she writes. "Many, many souls would become most holy if they had been properly guided from the very start."<sup>3</sup>

## THOUGHTFUL GARDENERS

What is proper guidance for young souls in the reality we live in today? How do parents help children grow in their natural affinity for God, and how do we keep from being any cause of alienation from him?

The truth is, only God can draw a child to him.<sup>4</sup> He does so, generally, through his miraculous creation, and personally, through special revelation and his Word. As such, parents need only to join in what he has already started. But he charges us to join in intentionally, prayerfully,

and with all the wits and wisdom that only God can give.

We have to trust that when we fail, and we will, that he will help us make amends. Our hearts will be quickened and wrenched along the way. God will make us into teachers and shape our souls while we carry on with the business of this life. Mistakes will be made. They will be part of our learning and growing.

When we brought our daughter home from the hospital, my husband and I weren't really sure where to start. Just getting her out of the car seat, into the house, and safely tucked in her crib was a nerve-wracking experience.

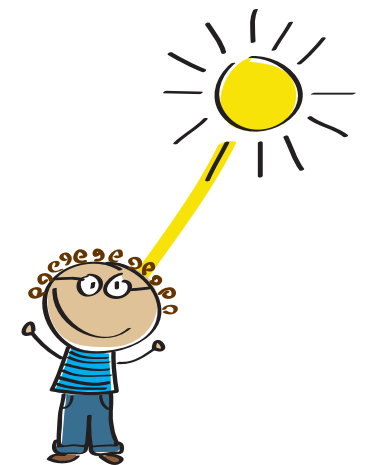
Barely 24 hours old, she was fragile and small—far out-sized by the weight we felt caring for her. We stood over the crib watching her every swaddled breath, both thinking, "Now what?" Michael suggested we pray, so it was there we prayed together over her for the first time in her new home. He simply asked God to prevent us from doing her any harm. Now I realize what an achievement even that would be.

The job of fostering a child's faith in God takes more forethought, insight—and practice—than any other aspect of parenting. Meanwhile, our own childhood experiences come barreling

through the past with force, tempering our view of a young life with God. You might realize you need mending in your own relationship with him. The miracle of being a parent is part of that mending. St. Thérèse concludes:

“I know God needs no help to carry out his work of sanctification. He lets a skilled gardener rear rare and delicate plants. He has given him the necessary knowledge, but he fertilizes them himself. That is exactly how he wishes to be helped in cultivating souls.”<sup>5</sup>

5 In nurturing your child's rare and delicate soul, consider the task not one of making a good person, but one of encouraging a soul who loves God. Outward acts of obedience and service will naturally flow from that kind of life, one guided by the powerful beginnings of faith.



5 *The Story of a Soul*, p. 63

# Little Think Tanks

Your child has great capacity for faith. You will help shape it.

## MINDS READY TO ABSORB

Much is made about the brain's capacity in a child's first five years of life. With decades of research in hand, organizations on the political, educational, and industrial fronts have set out to make the most of those early years.<sup>6</sup> Your child's mindshare is of crucial importance to other grownups. Movie characters on diapers and toddler toothbrushes can attest to that.

But the first five years of life are about more than the gray matter. We know these little think tanks have souls, too. Their faith starts forming at birth in the setting of family life and church community. In this way, special needs children are on even par with all children.

Thomas F. Torrance, the 20th century Protestant theologian known for his works on science and God, writes about this capacity:

“A child by the age of five has learned, we are told, an astonishing amount about the physical world to which he or she has become spontaneously and intuitively adapted—far more than the child could ever understand if he or she turned out to be the most brilliant of physicists. Likewise, I believe, we learn far more about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, into whose Name we have been baptized, within the family

and fellowship and living tradition of the Church than we can ever say: It becomes built into the structure of our souls and minds, and we know much more than we can ever tell.”<sup>7</sup>

## FAITH THAT KNOWS

The ability to know something without having the ability to explain it follows us into our adulthood. In fact, all humans no matter what their age continually accept ideas as truth without being able to explain them or even see them. A baby drops a toy and discovers it lands every time. Gravity works, well, because it does. We don't know how. But it's reliable.  $E=MC^2$  because we're told it does. We can count on it. Jesus gave his life because God so loved the world. He just does. He tells us so.

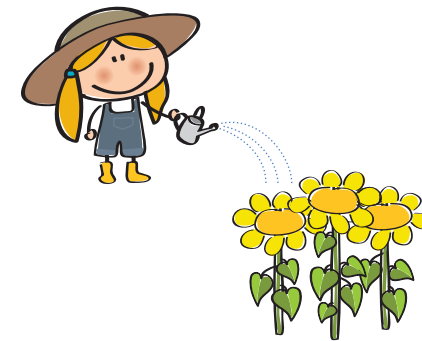
“Every man lives by faith, the nonbeliever as well as the saint; the one by faith in natural laws and the other by faith in God,” observes A.W. Tozer. “Every man throughout his entire life constantly accepts without understanding.”<sup>8</sup>

The difference between faith in God and faith in natural laws is the intensely personal way God has revealed himself to us through Jesus, and out of his great love seeks a one-on-one relationship with us no matter what our age. How much faith can a child have? Plenty.

Conventional wisdom holds that young children cannot absorb teaching about complex topics, things they cannot see. But the real challenge is an adult's ability to get a point across accurately under the scrutiny of a child's exacting nature for detail.

One pastor related his confusion as a child with the hymn “I'll be a Sunbeam.” He wondered why Jesus wanted him to be a sunbeam. A grandmother said that when her daughter was younger, she thought that in Psalm 23, “I shall not want,” meant that it was a sin for her to want anything. We adults stumble over the same things.

Children are literalists. The mealtime prayer actually does sound like, “lettuce thank him for our food.” Have some fun and laugh together about things like that. Then let your teaching involve the exchange of many questions to find out the meaning your child is making. Children are capable, in their humble age, of accepting God's truth as a reality that makes sense. Jesus says we must all think this way.<sup>9</sup>



## MOST IMPORTANT FACTS

God has made the most important facts about him the easiest to know. And to further help us along, God also made the New Covenant, with the life of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit in view, so that we may know him better:

**I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.**

**I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

**No longer will a man teach his neighbor, Or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord.'**

**Because they will all know me, From the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.**<sup>10</sup>

We can share with children sweeping thoughts about God like Spirit, Power, Sacrifice, Heaven, and Eternity while their hearts are intuitively set to receive them. Enriching your child now in this way prepares him for receiving deeper spiritual truths as he grows.<sup>11</sup>

The sheep of Jesus know his voice.<sup>12</sup> As babies' ears are new to the world and their hearts like soft wax, let our desire be to share Jesus' words because his growing children will recognize him. The power of the Word is unexplainable, but there it is. God's words will not fail in his purpose for them, a promise fulfilled throughout Scripture and history. God willing, his children will love him.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 18:3

<sup>10</sup> Jeremiah 31:33-34

<sup>11</sup> Tozer, p. 17

<sup>12</sup> John 10:3, 5, 16

<sup>6</sup> An Internet search on “first five years” will land on a full array of sites to visit.

<sup>7</sup> Torrance, Thomas F., *The Christian Doctrine of God*, T&T Clark Ltd: Scotland, 1996, p. 89.

<sup>8</sup> Tozer, A.W., *Knowledge of the Holy*, HarperCollins: New York, 1961, 1978, p. 17

# Unique Journeys

*Your child will have a one-of-a-kind path. You are a shepherd.*

## SOULS WITH CHOICE

Young children have a way of confounding the experts. A mother and father struggling to potty train a toddler might consult four or five different books with different methods—to no avail. Sometimes a behavior will surface that doesn't quite fit any scenario in any survival guide. It's a parenting fact of life: Your child is one of a kind. That must mean something to God.

8 “The signature on each soul may be a product of heredity and environment, but that only means that heredity and environment are among the instruments whereby God creates a soul,” C.S. Lewis writes. “I am considering not how, but why, he makes each soul unique. If he had no use for all these differences, I do not see why he should have created more souls than one.”<sup>13</sup>

Each soul—the collection of our thoughts, feelings, intuition, experiences, and memories—is endowed with a will. That decision-maker, the will, is the essence of your child's being. It's how she creates and moves in the world with her gifts and talents. And it's her path to God, who has gone to great lengths to give humans a free will. So if we have free will with God, we have free will with our parents. Don't we know it.

A child cannot be forced to eat or sleep or potty in the right place. Skilled gardeners cannot force plants to grow. Every parent experiences moments of complete exasperation in the face of a child's God-given will. God understands. A child

<sup>13</sup> Lewis, C.S., *The Problem of Pain*, Touchstone: New York, 1996, p. 132.

cannot be forced to obey God either. Fortunately, he made it almost impossible for children not to love their parents. And, so, parents have great influence on those hearts of soft wax.

## SHEPHERDS FOR ALL TIME

Christian parents are bound to encounter a child's free will when it comes to matters of faith. This is where we take on the mantle of the shepherd and begin helping children navigate the rewards and consequences of their choices.

The life of a shepherd is one constantly on alert looking out for the flock, aware and involved, but never intrusive or overbearing. He doesn't need to put his sheep on a leash. He knows sheep only follow a shepherd they trust, not one they fear. Sheep will even trust an appropriately bred and trained dog, but they will never trust a coyote.

“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me,” Psalm 23 reflects, about the peace of the shepherd's instruments of guidance, protection, and support. Jesus, of course, is the one Good Shepherd. Read his own words in John 10 to meditate on the depths of his love and the sacrificial acts involved in carrying that mantle.

The human limits of shepherding are laid bare for all to see, even the little sheep. The life of a shepherd is a humbling life. And your humble walk is part of your witness to your child. During this time with you, as you seek and learn to walk with Jesus your shepherd, your children join

you in worshipping at church, praying in many circumstances, reading the Bible and learning to walk in his ways, too.

As you nurture and guide your child, you give him the safety to mark out his unique journey at your side. Your belief that God will do what he says he will do—and the hope for the eternity that goes with that—become vital, along with continual patience and prayer.

Holding your child out to God in prayer and gratitude is a powerful, meaningful way to love your child no matter where his journey leads him or what the circumstances are. Sometime in your child's life, if you haven't already, you will be desperate to help him. Prayer will be your only hope whether you believe in God or not. In prayer, you will link with God in his great love and purpose for the child he made. Your prayers will matter.

## SOLO JOURNEYS TOGETHER

It's through prayer that the unique journey of your soul intertwines with the unique journey of your child's soul within the triune life of God. As Jesus prayed just before his crucifixion, “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”<sup>14</sup>

In Spirit, you meld with your child on a different plane than the every day world of packing a snack and going to preschool. Your paths are unique but your One Truth is the same. It might not seem

real yet. You'll each need a measure of faith in this life to persevere and carry you through to a new life when you will know each other and God in perfect union. “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known,” Paul writes to encourage the newly faithful.<sup>15</sup> It's the unique journey of a one-of-a-kind person that gives a soul a place in eternity. As C.S. Lewis puts it:

“Be sure that the ins and outs of your individuality are no mystery to him, and one day they will no longer be a mystery to you. Your soul has a curious shape because it is a hollow made to fit a particular swelling in the infinite contours of the divine substance, or a key to unlock one of the doors in the house with many mansions. For it is not humanity in the abstract that is to be saved, but you—you, the individual.”<sup>16</sup>

That's just where children and grown-ups alike connect with God and grow in him, here and now on the individual, very personal level. One day we will dwell with him in unity in all the fullness of our unique spirits for all eternity. There, you are promised a new name, which only you and God will know, written on a white stone.<sup>17</sup> Here, we have Heaven on earth, the kingdom among us to personally bless us and keep us.

<sup>14</sup> John 17:22-23

<sup>15</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:12

<sup>16</sup> *Problem of Pain*, p. 132

<sup>17</sup> Revelations 2:17

# Personal Ties

*Your child has a special relationship with God. You can honor it.*

## SACRED BOND OF LOVE

If you're a parent of more than one child, you know how vastly different they can be from one another, even while having the same family circumstances. It starts at birth. Chances are you've already adapted your parenting style to each child.

The uniqueness of your child's physical and spiritual make-up calls for a unique response from you in order to have a healthy relationship. Parents would never declare once for all that they will have the same kind of relationship with all their children—and expect to have a love-filled, functional home. People don't work that way. And neither does our relationship with God, when we let him have his way.

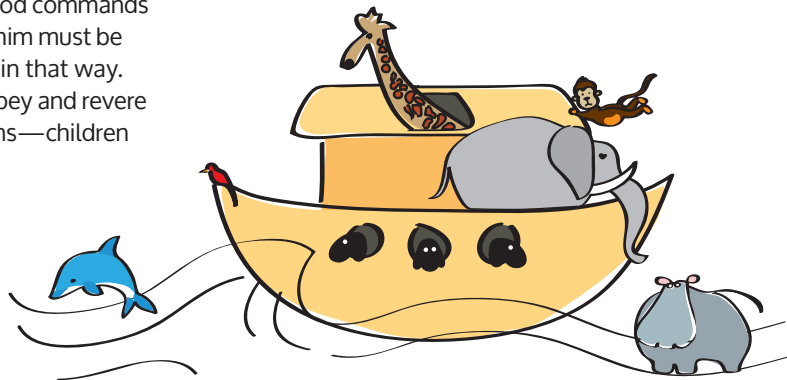
God's interaction with us is always personal and meaningful because love is personal. Given God's design of originality, love with him must be personal for it to have any depth. Humans are the only creatures made in his image, destined for that personal tie with him.<sup>18</sup> If God commands us to love him, then great love for him must be possible.<sup>19</sup> His reality is exquisite in that way. To love God and have the will to obey and revere him—our highest calling as humans—children

must first believe that God is good. And to believe that he is good, children must know him, which he graciously permits us all to do. "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."<sup>20</sup>

The personal relationship with God is where our salvation and eternity begin. It's where his plan for his creation comes to fruition through his life as Jesus on Earth. The path to that life is no harder than turning your heart in his direction through a personal decision. Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from life to death."<sup>21</sup>

## GOD'S TRUSTWORTHY CARE

Naturally, Christian parents are anxious about their children's salvation. We know what's at stake. You can trust God with the soul of your child. His special love and concern for the



18 Genesis 1:27  
19 Mark 12:30  
20 2 Peter 1:3  
21 John 5:24

youngest radiates throughout Scripture. And so, I am certain that children who never live to proclaim their belief in God are with him even now and that they know the love of their families there, too.

But because your growing child's relationship with God is largely personal, you won't fully know where it stands until a child can or wants to express it. And as we know, each individual child takes a unique path to him. I see it in the children I teach at church. They are all different in the way they approach faith. Some will have a harder path than others.

You might be tempted to compare your child's spirituality to other children's. The Bible advises a better habit to instill in a child: "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load."<sup>22</sup> Comparisons can be a trap for parents today, especially in the early developing years with all the uncertainties about how kids will turn out. Constant comparison can lead to constant criticism, subtle and not so subtle, and put a wedge between parent and child. The child always sees it for what it is.



What will be your posture towards your child? It's a good time to take stock and be intentional. Because even a creeping critical stance impairs the skills of a loving shepherd to guide a unique soul on its path. Jesus never said, "Peter, why can't you be more like John?" He said, Follow me.<sup>23</sup>

Jesus reveals to each individual soul the one loving, trustworthy God. And the resulting personal ties that bind a child's life to God will anchor her to withstand the prevailing winds of a world set up to take her down. A first-hand knowledge of the true God, not the one that resembles Santa Claus, will help children persevere as they grow up.

When I was 15 years old, I stopped going to church, not because it wasn't cool or entertaining, but because my wanting-to-believe faith of early childhood was not enough to withstand the realities of my teen life. I had a skewed, underdeveloped view of who God is. I wanted to stop getting the brunt-end in life, and I decided I could handle it just fine on my own. I was one of the kids who had a harder path.

22 Galatians 6:4  
23 Matthew 4:19

# Golden Moments

*Your child will ask you about God. Your life will answer.*

At the time, it was disastrously easy to make the decision to turn my back on God because I didn't understand from whom I was walking away. I am forever grateful God never turned his grace and mercy away from me. I'm also grateful for many, many prayers that held my name wrapped in love before him. You can bet that in my new walk, when storms strike, I realize there is no other way than to turn to my trustworthy God who cares, and he always delivers me.

## FAITH ON BENDED KNEE

12 You can't spare your children from their choices as they grow—that's part of their humanity. But you have a lifetime to walk alongside them and nurture and honor their personal ties with God. It's never too late. Adult children come back to the fold. You can help them remember that God is who he says he is. And you must pray continually. Pray that God helps you to see your child the way he does. Then, the faith your child develops will be his faith.

I sort of chuckled recently when I came across this Bible passage: "My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!"<sup>24</sup>

Isn't that the truth? We all feel that way sometimes, even the mighty apostle Paul

who could withstand chains and beatings. Take it easy on yourselves, parents. You have a high calling fraught with surprises and pitfalls, and you only get to look from the outside at your child's inner life. Over time, if not already, that inner life will flow out in love through healthy measures of obedience and service. You get glimpses of it all the time.

To get you through your child's unique journey, you have the ultimate Helper—God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Despite his setbacks, Paul always held God's power in view. In a reverent petition, he gives a hopeful, beautiful picture of a new life gathered into the triune Being of the one true God. This can be your prayer for your child, too:

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in Heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love, which surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Galatians 4:19-20

<sup>25</sup> Ephesians 3:14-19

## CURIOSITY AND QUESTIONS

God gives children a remarkable curiosity, doesn't he? It's an engine that powers their brains with new information. As they continue to grow, the questions keep coming, and the answers to them keep getting longer. Children also have the uncanny ability to ask Life's Big Questions at the most inconvenient times. We do the best we can under the circumstances.

One theology professor was cooking dinner when his junior high school son asked, "Do evangelicals have monks?" Instead of offering the thoughtful and nuanced answer he could have given, the dad said he chose not to burn the bacon, and shouted back, "No!"<sup>26</sup>

The questions of young children are no less challenging for a busy parent. In fact, my experience is that pre-teens and teens will ask about the technical, apologetic aspects of faith to either prove or disprove what they've learned. They'll invite more of a discussion or debate. Younger children go for the spiritual jugular. *Where does God live? What is Hell like? Who gets in Heaven?* They don't want an exposition, either. They want the answer straight and clean. You can thank God for that.

Even if the questions might happen at awkward times, these jewels of curiosity serve up golden moments for sharing essential truths about God.

<sup>26</sup> Larsen, Timothy, "Religion is Wasted on the Young," *Faith & Leadership*, Duke Divinity School, September 2012, at [faithandleadership.com](http://faithandleadership.com).

Furthermore, you find out what your children know and how they feel about him. You can correct misguided thinking or untruths they've heard.

In fact, once children are out of the toddler years and have more experience with the world, they'll ask you about the matters troubling them, too. In the middle of a Christmas visit with family, our then six-year-old asked my husband if a boy in her class was going to hell because he said he didn't believe in God. The same boy had been telling classmates God is mean. She needed one of us to reassure her of God's goodness.

Are you prepared to answer a little child's big questions about God? The answer is yes. The trustworthy Bible tells you why.

## YOUR READINESS GUIDE

13 Unlike many of today's parenting books, the Bible doesn't give a step-by-step program to obtain a desired result from your child. I have often wished that it did. In practice, however, there can be no uniform approach or formula for helping along a one-of-a-kind soul on a unique journey.

What the Bible does say about sharing faith with children is instructive. The heart of God's desire for parenting lies in Deuteronomy 6. It's also here and in Exodus that Scripture assures you your child will ask about the reasons for your faith, and God instructs you how to answer.

After stating the greatest commandment, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength, Moses exhorts parents to hold the commandments *on their own hearts* and then, "Impress them on your children."<sup>27</sup>

Parents model the commandments, Moses instructs, by their actions and their words during the routine walk of daily life: "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."<sup>28</sup> Your love for God is to be evident.

And then, "In the future, when your son asks you, 'What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?' tell him...."<sup>29</sup> The emphasis is on a curiosity the maturing child will have about the parents' experience with God. Children are getting older. They recognize the push and pull of the world. What else outside the child's view motivates the parents to be faithful followers? A child might be wondering, "Are my hopes well placed?"

Scripture demonstrates the pattern with similar questions from children about Passover: "And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them...."<sup>30</sup>

27 Deuteronomy 6:4-7  
28 Deuteronomy 6:7-9  
29 Deuteronomy 6:20

And also with first born consecration: "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him...."<sup>31</sup> God instructs parents to give an account of his mighty acts for them and their nation. "On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'"<sup>32</sup>

The three events taking place in these passages have one thing in common: They are miraculous milestones in God's history with his people. The events reminded the people of that time who God is and who they were in him. We have the same knowledge today.

So, when your child asks you about matters of your faith, you'll also have a reply. Like the Israelite parents, you've had a journey with God. The Jewish nation of Moses' time had God's miraculous defeat of the Egyptians and the manna in the desert. Today, you have the miraculous saving act of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

We love God because of who he is. We know him. He's had a deep impact on our lives through personal experiences with him, and he has directly intervened. We all have an experience to which we can point and say, "Only God can do that!" or better yet, "My God did that for me." Here, too, we can also reach back to the familiar

30 Exodus 12:26  
31 Exodus 13:14  
32 Exodus 13:8

miracles of Noah's animal-filled ship and a beached Jonah. God has a long history saving his people. And, with the New Covenant in view, we can share the personal history of our salvation and the saving power of God's perfect law in our lives and our families' traditions. The thread of Jesus' gift runs evidently through it all.

### CLEAR THINKING ABOUT GOD

A curious child is your chance to give a budding life a true picture of the active, living God. Questions give you the opportunity to aggressively push back on the world's erroneous depictions of God as a gray-bearded old man or Heaven as a cloud-puffed place filled with harps.

One Sunday a young boy asked me if we get wings when we go to Heaven. His question gave me the opportunity to tell him and show him what the Bible says. It's important what we know about Heaven because it is our hope—the reason for persevering in this life.

Children think about these things. Once I was teaching a group of girls at my church when the pastor's daughter asked me if I would rather be on Earth or in Heaven. Though my first thought was, "Gee, I hope I get this one right," the answer was easy. I told her that I wanted to be in Heaven as soon as God thought it was time for me. Because when I needed him most, he gave me a dream one night about Heaven, and it is an amazing place to be.

Questions like these are a welcome mat to share your insights with your child. My eight-year-old daughter has long tuned me out if she senses a pre-meditated sermon coming, but her heart and mind are wide open when she asks me a question about God. Again, grown-ups are the same way. Pray that your child asks you questions about God. Pray that you will be prepared to answer in just the way your precious child needs to hear. Peter, the fisher of men, encourages, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."<sup>33</sup> And from our mentor Paul, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."<sup>34</sup>

God chose you to teach the soul he made. You've already got a strong start. You know and love your child better than anyone but God. You're searching and learning to fine-tune your steps along the way. And if God is for you, and for your child, who can be against you?<sup>35</sup>



33 1 Peter 3:15  
34 Colossians 4:5-6  
35 Romans 8:31





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