

11-07-2011 HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD

When I seek to learn to do something, I always seek advice. Today, let's explore HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

Of course, the Scripture most used in addressing HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD is Proverbs 22:6: "Train a child in the way he should go & when he is old, he will not turn from it." We must teach our children the Word of God. We must teach them how to make sound, Biblical decisions.

According to pediatrician Marianne Neifert, a mother of five, kids have an incredible sense of wonder—they're innate spiritual beings.

In her book DR. MOM'S PRESCRIPTION FOR PRESCHOOLERS: SEVEN ESSENTIALS FOR THE FORMATIVE YEARS, she says that pre-school age is the perfect time to begin nurturing a child spiritually. Timothy was taught the Scriptures from infancy, 2nd Timothy 3:15. Of course, it is never too late!

You want to teach children young. Neifert says it is valuable to demonstrate spirituality by incorporating it into ordinary words. For instance when you open the curtains in the morning, you can say, "look at this glorious day that the Lord has made," or "God bless you," at bedtime. Read stories from a children's Bible. View VeggieTales. Sing Christian songs. Make it fun!

When considering HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD, introduce prayer. Let your child know that prayer is not just reserved for Sundays. Teach your child to have a personal relationship with Jesus. At Easter or Christmas, share the deeper meaning. Explain that candy & presents are gifts from God.

We must accept responsibility for a child's Spiritual development. 1st Samuel 3 tells us that children are open to God. In a study by George Barna for the National Children's Ministries Council, he wrote: "Parents accept responsibility for their child's development but struggle with effectiveness. Parents believe they are primarily responsible for the Spiritual development of children but few spend time during a typical week interacting with children on Spiritual matters."

All too often, we are willing to pass the buck to churches, ministers, priests, school teachers, friends. Parents must be PRIMARY in HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD with others being secondary. Accept responsibility!

Ephesians 6:4 says, “bring them up in the training & instruction of the Lord.” If we accept responsibility, we receive the promise of Acts 16:31: “Believe in the Lord Jesus & you will be saved—you & your household.” Isaiah 54:13 says, “All your sons will be taught by the Lord, & great will be your children’s peace.”

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 says, “fix these words in your hearts & minds; tie them as symbols on your hands & bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children at home, on the road, when you lie down & when you get up.”

If we seek righteousness, our blessing will extend to children, Proverbs 20:7: “The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.” Billy Graham wrote that, “ Children must be taught obedience as they must be taught to read & write.”

Pray for guidance. Be a good example, 2nd Timothy 1:5: “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother & your mother, I am persuaded in you also.”

Here is a funny example of a SPIRITUAL CHILD. A six-year old girl was in class. The teacher was explaining evolution. The teacher asked a boy, “Tommy—do you see the tree outside? Yes! Do you see the grass? Yes! Go outside & look up & see the sky. He returned. He saw the sky. Did you see God, she asked? No, he said.

That’s my point, said the teacher. We can’t see God because He isn’t there. He just doesn’t exist. A girl spoke up & wanted to ask Tommy some questions. The teacher agreed. The girl addressed Tommy: ‘Do you see the tree outside?’ Yes. ‘Do you see the grass?’ Yes! ‘Do you see the teacher?’ Yes! ‘Do you see her brain?’ No! Then what you were taught today means she must not have one!

My friends, walk by faith & not by sight. Teach your children well to RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD! For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for HOW TO RAISE A SPIRITUAL CHILD. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I’m Ken Trahan. God bless you!