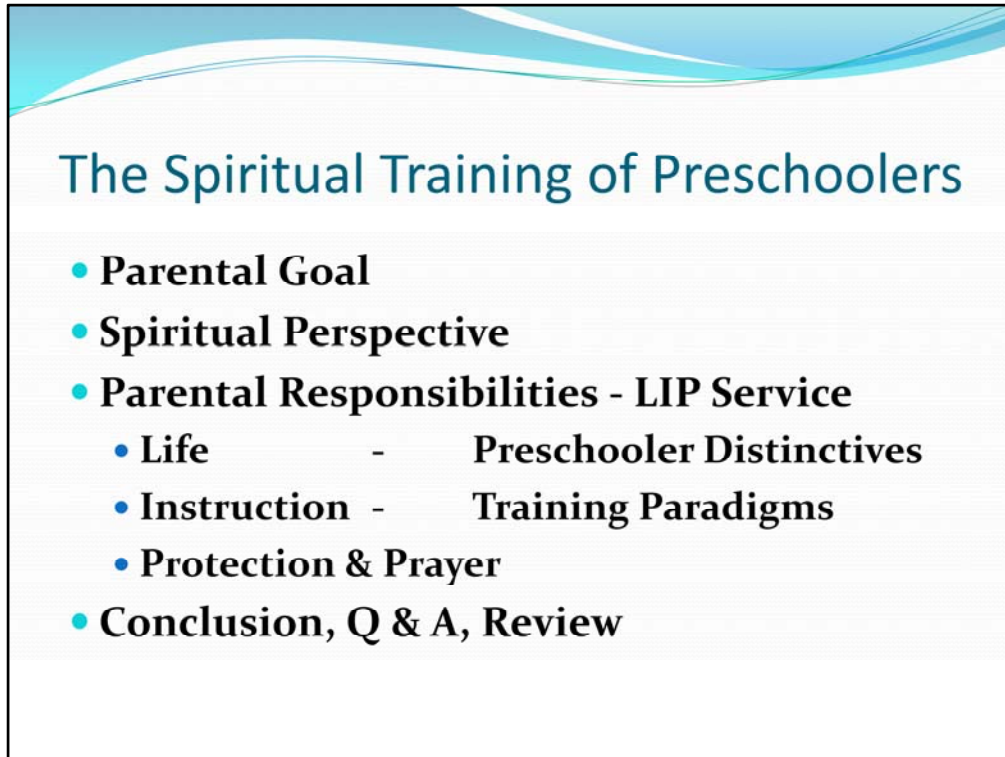


Introduction:

I am Mike Riggs and in this workshop we are going to focus on how to pass on spiritual values to preschoolers.



We are going to talk about...

Parental Goal

Spiritual Perspective

Parental Responsibilities – LIP Service

- Life - Preschooler Distinctives
- Instruction - Training Paradigms
- Protection & Prayer

I will cover the Instruction area very quickly to give you a flavor for what is there. Don't worry about getting all the notes because I will tell you how to get all the Power Point slides and my notes before I close.

It may seem strange to you, but my focus on Preschoolers actually grew out of my experience in military and college ministries. Two things happened there that directed this focus.

Ministry Background

1. College Freshmen
2. Marriage to Carolyn – oldest of 8 children and put herself through college baby sitting. Taught grade school.

Our Preschoolers

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Your Parental Goal from the Beginning

Genesis 2:24

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. “

That means two things:

1. At some point your children will leave home
2. We should be preparing them to be on their own

What happens when you have a purpose?

In the very beginning , the bible establishes our parental objective for our children.

It is stated in Genesis 2:24 which is before the fall, but it is also restated 3 times in the NT. (by Jesus in Mt 19:5, Mk 10:7 and Paul in Ephesians 5: 31). It says, “**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. “**

That means two things:

1. At some point in the future, your child will and should leave your home and start his or her own home.
2. That means that at if we have the right aim and are doing what we should be doing, then we should be preparing our children to leave home and be on their own. Independence !

This should be on the top of our minds when we think about our children. In God’s plan they will leave our home and to support God’s design for our children we must prepare them for that occasion. I know it is tough to think of our Preschoolers this way, but if we do, then when they are at an age where it is time to leave home, we will know they have the basics for facing the world. We may look at that time with sorrow about losing them but with confidence that they have been prepared for life on their own.

Important!

You will find your child rearing changes when you have a purpose for them. It is like when many of us learned to ride a bike or drive a car. We didn’t look at that car and say to ourselves, I want to learn how to operate that piece of machinery. Especially when you started finding out that it was scary at times and difficult to learn.

So our goal should be to train our children to be on their own? We are not just to manage their lives but to prepare them for independence.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

- **Parental Goal**
- **Spiritual Perspective**
- **Parental Responsibilities - LIP Service**
 - **Life - Preschooler Distinctives**
 - **Instruction - Training Paradigms**
 - **Protection & Prayer**
- **Conclusion, Q & A, Review**

That brings us to the biblical priority the Lord has put in front of us, Our Children's Spiritual condition. And the world is certainly not going to teach them spiritual truths from a biblical perspective.

Remember the College Freshmen? They may have been ready academically for college, but not spiritually.

So, How do we prepare them spiritually?

Next Slide

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Basic Principles of Spiritual Training – Deut 6:4-7

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deut 6: 4-7 capsulizes God's instructions. Let's read it.

Read Passage

We are going to spend some time around this passage today, because it tells us a lot about spiritual aspect of raising our children, including preschoolers.

So, what are some quick observations from these verses.

1. There is one God And it is not the environment, academics, a good job or a boss nor is it our children.
2. The Lord is our highest priority
3. We are to pass on these values to our children

So what do we mean by Spiritual Values?

4 Basic Views of the Spiritual Aspect	
Biblical Presuppositions	World's Presuppositions
• Scripture	• Scripture
• God	• God
• Fleshly Man	• Fleshly Man
• Eternity	• Eternity

So, what do we mean by Spiritual according to the Bible?

In your handout on page 4 you will find this list.

We want our preschooler to have the proper perspective of our Lord and we want them to know what the Lord expects.

With that in mind I have picked four foundational areas of the spiritual life and the Christian faith that distinguishes us from those that reject the Biblical perspective.

The Four Areas are:

Scripture

God

Fleshly Man

Eternity

What is important to know in these 4 areas to prepare them for salvation?

Here is where I need your feedback.

Our spiritual perspective determines what directs our lives, who we follow, how we respond to others and many other areas. But most importantly, how we respond to God.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

- **Parental Goal**
- **Spiritual Perspective**
- **Parental Responsibilities - LIP Service**
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Now, let's consider the audience of our training, the preschooler.

During the preschool years there is a maturing taking place physically, mentally, socially, emotionally. All the mental and physical parts are there to grow in these areas and become an adult. But we have to help them get there.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Preschooler, The Learning Sponge

Language Example:

The Child Development Institute indicates the following vocabulary development in children:

- 18 months 5-20 words
- 24 months 150-300 words
- 36 months 900-1000 words

Isa 28:10: Precept upon Precept...

The preschool child also has a mind that is hungry for input and he or she absorbs knowledge like a sponge. They will be learning everything from eye/hand coordination to language and the world of social interaction. To give you an idea of how fast and easily a child learns this is what the Child Development Institute indicates is the vocabulary development in children:

18 months 5-20 words

24 months 150-300 words (learning 120 to 280 words in 180 days) About 1 word a day.

36 months 900-1000 words (learning 700 words in a year would mean learning about 2 words a day.)

So what are the chances of you learning two vocabulary words a day for a year and being able to use them in sentences?

Expectations

Preschoolers may not be able to explain what they are learning but that does not mean they are not learning far more than you think or may be able to observe. So give them input and at some point, they will start putting the information together just like they did when they started talking in sentences. Recognize that what they learn is described biblically in Isa 28: 10 "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little:". So, just like they learn our language, they can also learn spiritual truths. It is a building process. What is important is that you give them the right spiritual foundations so that they can come up with the right conclusions about the spiritual realm. That means you will need to provide guidance.

Remedies:

The child's major frustration is boredom. That is why we have developed so many gadgets to relieve their boredom while mommy takes care of chores. But there are many things we can do which we will talk about later.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

- **Parental Goal**
- **Spiritual Perspective**
- **Parental Responsibilities - LIP Service**
 - **Life** - **Preschooler Distinctives**
 - **Instruction** - **Training Paradigms**
 - **Protection & Prayer**
- **Conclusion, Q & A, Review**

That brings us to our Biblical responsibilities. I call it LIP Service.

We will start with L, your life.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Basic Principles of Spiritual Training – Deut 6:4-7

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Read the blue verse

Just as your child learns our language by listening to you and interacting with you, they also learn your spiritual priorities. In other words, your life, how you live and act and what you say and what you demonstrate in front of and to your child is what they will learn about spiritual truths.

This is where it starts. What does this verse say about our first priority?

If you waiver in your devotion & service, so will your children.

Parental Responsibility

Life: Reflect a Proper Example

Luke 10:38-42 – Martha and Mary

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Here is what I mean:

Read the Slide

My first response...

Martha, Martha – Lk. 10:38-42 - Do you not care... The key is what we care about.

Real as my hands and feet

Parental Responsibility

Life: Reflect a Proper Example

- Dads Set the Family Focus, what is it?
- Your Ministry
- Your Witness to your family,
 - Dads – Leader/Servant, Loving/Consistent
 - Moms – Teaching to respect their husbands

“Will your family Convict you of being a Christian?”

Dads set the family focus. Sports, fishing, computers... It is ok to enjoy these areas, they also serve to train our children to live in the world, however, our children need to see that although you enjoy these areas, your life's focus is the Lord. Do they understand that these things come a distant second to your focus on the Lord and His service. Your children need to see that the Lord is your god, not these things.

Ministry - One of the key areas to show your commitment to Christ is to be involved in some kind of ministry. **Lk 9:23, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily.** Ministry not only helps build your spiritual gifts and ministry skills but it also holds you accountable. What does your ministry commitment communicate to your children about your commitment to the Lord?

If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would you be convicted? Would your children convict you?

Do your children ever catch you reading your Bible, just you and the Lord? Or praying?

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

- **Parental Goal**
- **Spiritual Priority**
- **Parental Responsibilities - LIP Service**
 - **Life** - **Preschoolers**
 - **Instruction** - **Training Paradigms**
 - **Protection & Prayer**
- **Conclusion, Q & A**

The Lord uses life to teach us spiritual principles. Proverbs is full of how life relates to spiritual principles. We are going to spend some time talking about the practical side of training your children as it relates to learning about spiritual values.

For instance, the world focuses on training the mind whereas the Lord is focused on training the heart. The World is focused on teaching skills and knowhow whereas the Bible is focused on doing the right thing, having right attitudes and responses.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Instruction

Basic Principles of Spiritual Training – Deut 6:4-7

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Next area is your **Instruction - Read the blue verse**

Do you know why it doesn't say in your head? Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.

2 Questions:

Where does verse 7 tell you we are supposed to teach our preschoolers?

When are we supposed to teach our preschoolers?

Wherever you are, there are lessons about our faith. Sometimes those lessons may be negative examples of what not to do.

How are we to teach?

“Diligently”? One of the interpretations could be the idea of “Wetting their Appetites”. It is not a passive word, but an active word.

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Aim for the Heart

What are we aiming at?

- Do we have a spiritual goal for our children?
- Are we aiming for the Head or the Heart?
- Is it Borrowed Spirituality? College Freshmen
- Are we helping our children learn to delight in the law of the Lord?

Here are some questions we need to ask ourselves in the way we are raising our children.

We must teach our children to delight in the law of the Lord through careful, consistent training of the heart with good habits (Pr. 2).

Are we connecting their life with God's Word. God gives us everything we need to train our children in the ways of the Lord (2 Pt. 1:3-11).

So how do we do these things?

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Aim for the Heart

- Whet their appetite – Stretch them prepare them for the future
- Motivated moments within real life circumstances
- Talk of them... sit, walk, lie down, rise up.
- Encourage progressively earned freedoms
- Give them responsibilities

It says we are to aim for the heart. How do we do that?

... teach them diligently Deut. 6:7 – Means to Whet their appetite for God's truth.

Whet their appetite. How? Make it relative to their life and stretch them. Get ahead of them in real life training. You know how they want to help mommy or daddy do something? Well, these are opportunities to combine a skill and biblical attitude training. Show them how to do what they want to learn, and talk to them about how and why they need to do it from a biblical perspective. Make it relative to them.

Look for motivated moments.

Motivated moments within real life circumstances - Get involved in their struggles and trials and encourage and exhort them. Look at Paul's letters and how he dealt with the existing challenges in the churches. – **1 Slide forward**

Talk of them ... sit, walk, lie down, rise up. This is a combination of identifying the motivated moments, stretching them and talking through the issues and challenges as you join them in their struggles and talk through the walk through the challenges and the scriptural answers. Talk about it as a fellow traveler in a challenging world, not always having all the answers, but helping them discover the answers themselves.

Encourage progressively earned freedoms & responsibility: Shift control to your child before you lose it to them. Don't block their maturing or give them complete freedom before they are responsible enough to handle it. If you abuse a freedom... Help them learn the biblical values that should tell us how to make choices, treat people and live life. That means you have to know them and live them. – **2 Slides forward**

Give them responsibilities around the home. Help them learn how to handle responsibility and talk about what they are learning. Make sure they have responsibilities around the house.

Parental Responsibility

Instruction: Motivated Moments or Events

- Crossing the street
- Handling money
- Work
- How do I respond when wronged
- How do I treat others

Here are some examples of motivated moments:

- Crossing the street,
- Handling money - Help them get a bank account and help them understand how the Lord wants us to use our money and how it reflects what is in our heart. Mt 6:19
- Work - 2 Thes 3:10 He that does not work, does not eat; Trip to ToysRus
- How do I treat my brother? Eph 4:32
- What do I do when wronged? Eph 4:32
- How should I serve in my family?
- How do I treat the others?

The Bible has answers to all these areas. Look them up if you don't already know what they are.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Independence involves both skills and attitudes

Training Combinations:

- Skills w/ Responsibilities
- Freedoms w/ Accountability and Self Control
- Friends w/ Respect and Consideration
- Property w/ Respect and Consideration

This is the Key Point in Training when keeping in mind the parental goal of independence.

Independence involves both skills and attitudes. We must combine teaching the skills of independence with the appropriate attitudes of independence. Independence and freedom go hand in hand with the attitudes or values of responsibility, accountability, self control, respect and consideration.

These two lessons go together. Like a left and right shoe.

With skills comes responsibilities to use them to take care of their own needs and when appropriate to help others in need.

With freedom comes accountability and self control to use freedom wisely. "Freedom is a privilege. Also, friends and property (toys) are privileges, if you abuse a privilege; you lose it". I.e. if you cannot play nicely with your friend or sister, then you lose the privilege to play with them. If you use your free time to get into something you shouldn't or do something you shouldn't, you may have that freedom restricted.

Remember if it is our job to teach our child to be independent, we need to encourage them to learn to be independent with the right values and attitudes. Once they have the right values and attitudes, you will be able to trust them with responsibilities and freedoms. The more they can do on their own with the right values and attitude the better. Our goal should be to help our children do as much as he/she can by him or herself.

Of these 4 areas, skills, friends and property are going to be more of a focus for preschoolers. Freedoms will be more of an emphasis when they are older. Let's talk about skills first.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Independence includes skills with the right attitudes.

Skills go with:

- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Teachable or Humble Spirit
- Desire to Do What is Right
- Sensitivity to others needs

Skills probably provide the most opportunities in various forms for preschoolers because they are learning so many skills so quickly.

These are some of the attitudes you will be emphasizing as your preschooler is learning new skills. **READ SLIDE**

Examples: when you teach your child to hang up their clothes combine it with teaching them that it needs to become their habit to hang up their clothes. It becomes their responsibility to hang up their clothes without being told. The same thing when they learn how to get dressed, tie shoes, brush their teeth. Teach them that knowing how to do something carries with it the responsibility to do it without being told.

Always, always recognize that they are preschoolers and even adults may not always get it right. So be patient, kind and persistent.

Praise them for doing things right, but really praise them for doing it on their own initiative. Help them develop an internal expectation that they are supposed to make good choices on their own initiative.

So we certainly want to teach skills, but especially teach - **Read Slide List**

So what are some skill areas we can teach?

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

What can we teach preschoolers?

- **Serving**
 - To Follow Instructions
 - To Be Observant & Considerate of Others and their possessions

Serving Interaction:

Preschoolers love to be helpers, so let them help, and praise them for helping. You will find that contrary to secular thinking, they really can be taught to think about others and be sensitive to others needs.

Teach them to follow instructions:

When you have your preschooler participate in some of your duties, make sure your directions are clear. It is best to show them what needs to happen. Be cautious about including multiple steps in your instructions. They will not likely be able to follow more than one instruction at a young age and may get sidetracked with one. However this will come in time.

Teach them to be observant of needs. You may want to play a game with them and ask them if they help mommy or daddy see what needs to be done. Take them to a room that needs things picked up and see how many things they can see needs to be picked up. You may need to help them observe at first. Later you may want to have a contest to see who can see them first or see the most things that are needed. You can do the same for helping others.

Crafts are a good teaching tool. However, in your home, your children's crafts can be actual participation in household duties. They can help cook, or vacuum with a little vacuum. Teach them by getting them personally involved in the process. They learn by doing and your lesson will be much less likely side tracked with unplanned movement if they are working on a task related to what you want to teach. Remember, while you are doing the tasks, talk to them about what you are doing and why? Remember, to bring in the Scriptural principles anytime there is a relationship to Scripture, including their responsibility to learn to do it on their own.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

What can we teach preschoolers?

- **Serving**

- Serving Skills – Includes Observation
- The Proper Values to do the Job Right
- To Serve with Joy in Helping Others

Tasks are easy to teach.

Teaching the right attitudes and responsible self discipline is the real challenge

Serving Interaction:

Young ones will get bored quickly and may get sidetracked. It's OK as long as the sidetrack is not disruptive. You can keep working on the task they were helping you on. You may need to spend shorter times on some activities and come back to it later. Later you can challenge them with, "See if you can do what we learned earlier". Preschoolers love a challenge and repetition; and they will likely answer the call to show you what they learned earlier.

For instance, folding clothes. They may not be able to fold properly but they may be able to pull out individual items and bring them to you or put them in a stack of socks, underwear, pants, shirts, etc. Later they may be able to sort by color or size. Then you can show them how you do it. They can help you put clothes in drawers. The key is to divide up the job into a child's bite size, one they can handle and be successful doing.

When they help you, it will probably take longer than if you did it yourself, but remember, your higher priority is to teach your children, not to make sure everything is in order. Dad that means you may need to share the load of housework or taking on the kids after you get home, especially with preschoolers.

At 2 to 3 yrs old the child is eager to serve and perform new tasks because it is a new adventure. However, later these new skills will become old hat and not as thrilling as they once were. Then you may have trouble getting them to do the routine tasks that they tackled with relish at two or three.

That is why skill or task training must go hand in hand with responsibility training. Help them master both the task and the correct attitude about the task. Help them understand that they are becoming a contributing part of the family and they have certain responsibilities that go with their ability to perform certain tasks.

Tasks are easy to teach, it is the attitude and responsible self discipline that is the real challenge.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Independence goes with the right values to use freedom appropriately.

Freedom must be combined with:

- Wisdom
- Honesty (American Idol Wannabes)
- Self Control
- Accountability
- Desire to Do What is Right

With freedom comes accountability and self control to use freedom wisely. "Freedom is a privilege. However, expecting a lot of wisdom from a preschooler may be premature. That does not mean you can or should rule it out until later. You can still talk about it and praise them for using their freedom to show initiative and to make good choices about how they use their time. They at least can start hearing about the concept. The main thing we are looking for and talking about is whether they are trying to do what is right. Recognize and praise those times when they make wise or considerate choices.

The Key Point is:

Independence involves both freedoms and values. We must train our children that freedom, goes with wisdom and honesty. They must learn to be honest with themselves and others.

He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes *them will have mercy.*
Prov 28: 13.

I John 1:9

These go hand in hand with self control, accountability and responsibility.

Always recognizing that they are preschoolers and even adults may not always get it right or use our time wisely. So be patient, kind and persistent.

Praise them for doing what they are told, but really praise them for making wise choices on their own. Help them develop an internal expectation that they are supposed to make good choices on their own. Teach them to pray that the Lord will help them make wise choices.

The next areas are their interactions, both social and material.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Independence goes with the proper respect for others and property.

Interaction both Social & Material

- Respect for Authority & Property
- Love & Kindness
- Consideration & Humility
- Forgiveness & Mercy & Grace

Interactions, Both Social and Material:

If they offend or hurt another they can learn about asking for forgiveness and repentance. If offended or hurt, they can learn about forgiveness. Eph 4/32. If they were unkind, talk about it and teach them to ask for forgiveness. The older ones may need to go think about it for a while before you talk to them. Help them identify what they did and why. You can talk about the golden rule.

Once they ask for forgiveness, we should help them understand that there is someone else they have hurt, the Lord. They need to learn to apply 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". If this verse is not part of your regular language and your child's, it needs to be. When they learn that they need to use it often it will help them understand that they are a sinner and need the Lord Jesus Christ and his atonement.

Also, friends and property (toys) are privileges, if you abuse a privilege; you lose it". I.e. if you cannot play nicely with your friend or sister, then you lose the privilege to play with them. If you use your free time to get into something you shouldn't or do something you shouldn't, you may have that freedom restricted.

For their toys, we used to have an out of bounds box. Somewhere where we put toys that were not put away or were abused or misused. The children had to do something like a chore of something else to earn the right to get it out to play with it again. If it stayed too long, we would get rid of it.

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Teaching Tools:

- The Bible
- Memorized Verses or Sayings
- Songs
- CDs or DVDs

So what are our main teaching tools?

•The Bible is the foundation for our values. So, as much as possible, help them understand the biblical foundation for how we should act and socialize and the attitude we should have. I.e. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your heart. Consider the ant. Do unto others..., Being a good steward..., The Bible is full of the values we should employ in our lives and implant in our children's lives. Pick those that mean something to you and that properly relate to your child's situations.

•You can memorize key verses.

•One way to do it is to memorize it in song

•Another method is to use the lessons from CDs or videos. Patch the Pirate, lessons in song is one we used to use and you can still get them online. Just Google Patch the Pirate. My daughter uses Seeds Family Worship. Google Seeds Music to find it.

Transition statement: So what are some of the things we can teach them and what are some examples?

Heb 5: 11-14

The Spiritual Training of Preschoolers

Teaching Tips

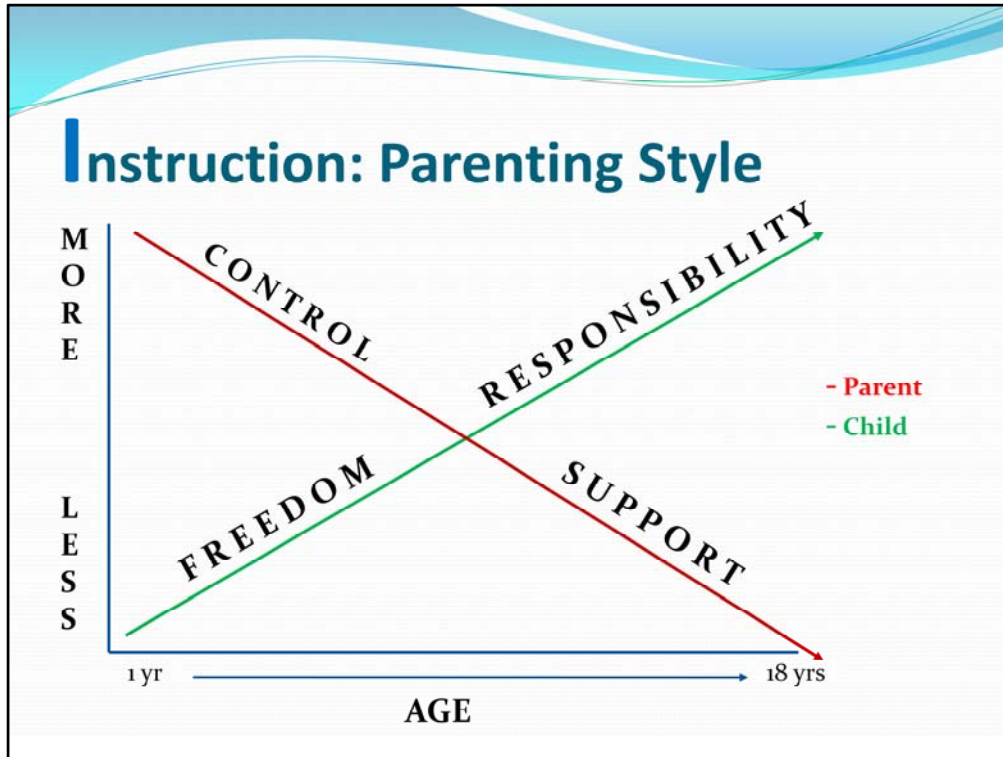
- Pin Pong Balls
- Expectations
- Little Spills

Teaching Tips

Pin Pong Balls: Which ball are you going to work on? Shoes on the wrong foot or something important?

If you set your expectations too high, you will frustrate or exasperate them. The Bible tells us not to exasperate our children in Col 3: 20 & 21. Consider their age and abilities with a gracious attitude. Don't set higher expectations for your children than you do for yourself.

Take little spills and mistakes in stride. Don't make a big deal of it. Children cry over spilled milk because of parents' overreaction. These are teaching and learning opportunities. Be gracious & merciful to your little ones.



Adjust your parenting style to accommodate spiritual growth.

Progressively give your control and teach them to be self sufficient.

Next Slide

Skills:

Responsibility
 Accountability
 Sensitivity to others needs

Freedom:

- Wisdom – Making good choices
- Honesty
- Self Control
- Accountability
- Desire to Do what is right

Instruction: Parenting Style

- Adjust your parenting style to accommodate spiritual growth.
- Encourage progressively earned freedoms & responsibility with biblical decision making.
- Your goal is to shift control to a responsible child rather than lose control to an irresponsible child.
- The key is to maintain the right balance of freedom and control. Your aim is to give them freedom and for them to become self-reliant and self-disciplined based on their reliance and devotion to the Lord.
- Give your child freedom within bounds when you can. It is with freedom that opportunities for training arise.
- Be diligent to observe and respond to those opportunities as you sit in your house or walk along the way or as you rise up or lie down, .

Encourage progressively earned freedoms & responsibility: As they are ready give them freedom to make their own choices, but teach them the values that go along with the freedom or the responsibilities that go along with the skills to serve God first, then family and fellow believers. “And let us do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. As they get older and earn more freedoms, talk through their decisions by asking what their thinking is. Your objective will be to help them learn biblical decision making.

Your goal is to shift control to a responsible child rather than lose control to an irresponsible child. Don't block their maturing or give them complete freedom before they are responsible enough to handle it.

The key is to maintain the right balance of freedom and control. Your aim is to give them freedom and for them to become self-reliant and self-disciplined based on their reliance and devotion to the Lord.

So, give your child freedom within bounds when you can. It is with freedom that opportunities for training arise. All freedom is within bounds. Even God's freedom is bounded by His character of love, holiness, righteousness, justice, etc. etc. And that is a key point; our job is to help them learn to be free within the bounds of a love for God and man as guided by the Scriptures.

Be diligent to observe and respond to those learning opportunities as you sit in your house or walk along the way or as you rise up or lie down, .

Instruction: Parenting Style

What can we teach preschoolers?

- **Parental Pointers**

- Clear Instructions
- Regular Routines
- Rest Times
- Don't Dump the Truck
- The Bible is not a Club

Make sure your instructions are clear. Be careful not to exasperate your child by asking too much. Consider their age and ability.

A regular routine will help your preschooler learn to schedule their time and it adds a certain level of security. If you are in a regular routine, you may actually be able to ask them what it is time to do and find them more ready to do it.

It may be good to have rest times or quiet times for younger children when they lay down for a while. They don't have to sleep but just be quiet for a while. Maybe mom can read to them or just read herself while the child rests. Maybe have your quiet time with the Lord for a few minutes. Tell your child it is time for you to talk to God and listen to Him for a while and suggest they do the same. Rest times can help preschoolers behave well when dad comes home. And mom too.

Give them responsibilities around the home. Help them learn how to handle responsibility and talk about what they are learning. Make sure they have responsibilities around the house. They learn how and what it means to own a responsibility. They are responsible for the results. If help is needed, ask.

Don't Dump the Truck - Never forget that neither you nor your children can do everything at once. We are all a work in progress. Be patient and think about what you want to accomplish but be sensitive to those opportunities to encourage proper response to the Lord and others. But don't exasperate your children by putting an unrealistic burden on them. Remember, they are preschoolers and God does not give us more than we can handle and neither should you.

Bible is not a club to get what you want. It is to teach us to know and love the Lord and the people he died for. 2 Tim 3:16&17

Instruction: Parenting Style

Teaching Tips

- Don't Wind Them Up
- Dad Time
- Little Talks
- Listen
- Asking Questions
- Reading Stories
- Giving Instructions

You may find it hard to get them to rest if you have given them sugar or caffeine. I don't recommend either, especially before dad get's home. Wound up kid's when dad is ready to wind down is not a good mix.

Dads take a little time with your preschooler when you get home. You may have them help you set the table for mommy.

Take a little time to just talk to them about the day. Learn their language. Get down on their level to talk. If you want heart to heart communication don't tower above them.

Make a point to take time with them and to listen to your child. They will find it easier to listen to you.

Learn to ask questions to find out what your child is thinking and to help them straighten out their thinking in a positive and encouraging fashion. Ask questions that help them think about what is right and good. I.e. What does Jesus or God want us to do?

You may want to read them a short story. They love to hear some stories over and over again.

When you give instructions, follow through to see that the child obeys. Don't teach the child that your words mean nothing. It is better not to ask **than** to ask and not follow through. Don't ask too much and overwhelm them. Remember they are preschoolers. You may find it helpful to have them go with you to help you as an example of serving with a proper attitude.

Parental Responsibility - Protection

Protection: Mt 7:13-14 - Straight and Narrow

¹³“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits.

The next area on your handout is Protection.

Let’s look at Mt 7:13 & 14

Circle of choices in life, our goal is to teach our children to make the right choices and to know when they are being led astray.

It is important for everyone to learn to constantly adjust to stay on course and to recognize those that would lead us astray.

Parental Responsibility - Protection

Protection: Ps 1:1 - Watch your walk

Blessed is the man

- Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
- Nor stands in the path of sinners,
- Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

We all are constantly exposed to the world's values and beliefs; we cannot go to the grocery store, watch TV or commercials, everywhere we go we are constantly being exposed to the world's values and propaganda.

The question is how we deal with it? Will we choose the straight and narrow? Our kids will know what we choose. It will come out in our behavior to them and the world.

Are we so exposed to the world and it's thinking that we will even recognize when we have strayed from the truth?

Parental Responsibility - Protection

Protection: Matt 7:13-14 - Straight and Narrow

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At the End –

Comment - Let’s look at some examples to see if we can recognize the difference.

Parental Responsibility - Protection

Protection: Beware of Wolves

- 4 Basic Views
- List – What Can a Preschool Child Learn
- Counterfeit Detection

Look at the list at the top of page 3 of your notes.

Protection: Beware of Wolves

Educational Beliefs List – What is missing?

- About God
- About Jesus
- About the Bible
- About the Church
- About his Home
- About Pleasing God
- About Reaching Others with the Gospel?

This is just a list of the headings from a list in your notes. I want you to look at the items under these headings in your notes and tell me if what you see there is what the child needs to know about each of these headings or if there is anything important left out.

Handout, P3

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Beware of Wolves

- 4 Basic Views
- List – What Can a Preschool Child Learn
- Counterfeit Detection

Parental Responsibility

Protection: Matt 7:13-14 – Beware of Wolves

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Protection: Beware of Wolves

How do we teach our children to Detect Counterfeits

- Know the Scriptures
- God vs Evolution created us
- Teach to think
- Chewing Gum on the Telephone Pole

Read the slide only

Your preschoolers cannot protect themselves in this area, it is dependent on you and here are some of the things that are important for you.

Counterfeit Detection & Ps 1: 2&3

Know their Bible

40 to 50 new religions are started every year. Any one of them could cause them to lose their way. Be grounded in the Scriptures.

Creation vs Evolution and its impact

In Six Days edited by John F Ashton PhD

Documentary - Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed

ICRs - Morris or Answers In Genesis - Ken Ham's

Teach them to think. Types of Arguments, Fallacies of Evasion, Procedural Fallacies (Google "Types of Arguments")

Chewing Gum on the Telephone Pole.

Protection: Beware of Wolves

Psalms 1:2, The Best Protection is to Know Scriptures

Blessed *is* the man

- Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
- Nor stands in the path of sinners,
- Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight *is* in

- the law of the LORD, And
- in His law he meditates day and night.

The alternative to walking in the counsel of the ungodly is to walk in the counsel of the Lord each day.

³ He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

And we definitely want our children to prosper spiritually!

⁴ The ungodly *are* not so,
But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Parental Responsibility - Prayer

Prayer

- **Jesus prayed for us and His Disciples, John 17:15**
- **We are told to put our care on Him in prayer, Phil 4:6**
- **The Lord Answers Prayer**

Psalms 127

1. Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city,
The watchman stays awake in vain.
2. *It is vain* for you to rise up early,
To sit up late,
To eat the bread of sorrows;
For so He gives His beloved sleep.

Parental Responsibility - Prayer

Philippians 4:6 & 7

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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Under workshop.

Helping Your Children Leave Home with Lifetime Spiritual Values

- **Parental Paradigm**
- **Expectations for Teens**
- **Our Responsibilities - LIP Service**
 - Life
 - Instruction
 - Protection & Prayer
- **Conclusion, Q & A**
- **Review - Cartoons**

Pray

THE END



Preparing Your Children to Have
Lifetime Biblical Convictions

Mike Riggs
Saturday, 4:00
Board Room (CD #10)

ENOCH, May 2012