

The Goal of Christian Parenting



As Christian parents our desire is for our children to develop a genuine, life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. We also want them to grow and discover who God made them to be and help them be ready to leave our homes and be successful in life.

Therefore, our goal as Christian parents is: **To nurture and guide our kids to follow Christ personally and to flourish as the image of God.**

1. We need to nurture and guide our kids...

⁷ But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.... ¹¹ just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children... (1 Thessalonians 1:7,11)

- Nurture - "to provide love and support...to love"
- Guide - "to provide direction and correction...to lead"

2. ...to follow Christ personally...

¹⁸ "Jesus questioned them, saying, 'Who do the people say that I am?' ¹⁹ They answered and said, 'John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again.' ²⁰ And He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'" (Luke 9:18-20)

- What our kids think about Jesus Christ is the most foundational belief in their life.
- They need to eventually answer for themselves these two questions:

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Is Jesus really worth following?

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

-Blaise Pascal

3. ...and to flourish as the image of God.

- Image of God - the ability and responsibility to
- As the image of God, we want our kids to flourish in three ways:

Character

We want our kids to be honest, responsible, hard-working, to know right from wrong and be aware of their feelings, but not be controlled by them.

Relationships


We want our kids to have good friends, to be kind and compassionate, aware of the feelings of others, but not controlled by them, and to cooperate with authorities - their parents, teachers, coaches and bosses.

Vocation

We want our kids to discover and develop their God-given gifts and interests. We want them to find meaningful careers and understand how they fit into God's kingdom.



This is your guided workout plan. Take 15 minutes on your own and respond to the session you just watched. You will be surprised at how just spending 15 minutes of thoughtful time will help your relationship with your kids.

 **REFLECT** [5 minutes] Take 5 minutes to think about what you just heard.

■ **Nurture and Guide**

- Which comes more naturally to you – nurturing or guiding?

■ **Helping your kids to follow Christ**

- Do each of your kids understand who Jesus is and why He came?
- Have your kids responded “Yes” to Jesus’ payment for their sins?
- How would assess your child’s interest in Jesus in this season of their life?

■ **Helping your kids to flourish as the image of God.**

- What are your kids interested in pursuing?
- How can you support and encourage them in that?

 **APPLY** [5 minutes]

What can you do this week as a result of what you heard today?

- Memorize the goal of Christian parenting or write you your own.
- How might you nurture your kids better?
- How might you guide your kids better?
- How can you and your spouse help your kids understand Jesus better?
- What are your kids interested in right now?
- How can you support and encourage each child’s interests?

 **PRAY** [5 minutes]

■ **Give thanks.** This kind of prayer expresses our faith that God is control and that He is good. When we tell God “thank you” He becomes more real to us.

- Take a few minutes and thank God for your kids, your role as a parent and for all that Jesus has done for you.

■ **Seek help.** This kind of prayer humbles and reminds us that we need God’s help in our parenting. When we ask God for help, He begins to feel more real to us.

- Take a few minutes and ask for God’s help with the particular challenges you are facing with your kids right now.

WEEKLY PARENTING CHECK-IN

Where are you struggling as a parent this week?

- anger
- impatience
- yelling at my kids
- shaming my kids
- blaming others
- apathy
- saying hurtful words
- not emotionally present
- low emotional energy
- on my phone too much
- low spousal support
- unsure what to do
- frustration
- comparison
- self-doubt
- avoiding my kids
- reacting, not leading
- low physical energy
- other

Where do you need the Spirit’s help this week?

- love
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- gentleness
- faithfulness
- self-control
- wisdom
- courage
- humility
- physical energy
- emotional energy