



# Growing Up Godly Children

## 2 Timothy 1

THRIVE! Growing and Changing in the Christian Life

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, June 26, 2016, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, IL  
[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by his rules. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace.”

~ **Jonathan Edwards**

1. Expositor’s class at 4pm and Evening service at 5pm.
2. Baptism and Testimony Sunday is July 3. If you need baptism talk w one of the pastors or elders.
3. So good to have two little ones in our service today: Caleb Asher Polderman, Abraham Flores
4. After the last song, we will have our Annual meeting.

If you don’t have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **2 Timothy 1**. The title of our message this morning is “Growing Up Godly Children.” This is part of our series “Thriving in the Christian Life.”

“Higher than every painter, higher than every sculptor and than all artists do I regard him who is skilled in the art of forming the soul of children.”

— **St. John Chrysostom (349-407)**

**Proposition:** The only way to grow up godly children is to introduce them to Jesus.

### Means of Grace

Salvation is a miracle isn’t it? God promises to finish the work He begins in all His children (**Phil 1:6**). I want to tell you when we think of growing up godly children that there is hope. I was raised in a family where I did not have a godly mother or father.

God saved me when I was 15. But I still needed mothers and fathers to guide me and grow me up! Those mothers and fathers were in his local church.

God is more interested in your children than you are. Having said that, God’s love for your children doesn’t let you off the hook. He uses means. The greatest tools in the home for pointing your children to Christ and seeing them grow up in Him is missionary mom and missionary dad. St. Paul asked the question, “How shall they hear without a preacher?” (**Rom 10:14**).

### **Jonathan Edwards: Home is a little church**

The Puritans believed and taught that your family is your church. Every man has a responsibility to pastor his wife and his children. Jonathan Edwards said, “Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by his rules. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace.”

George Whitefield said, “A father ought to look upon himself as obliged to act in three capacities: as a prophet, to instruct; as a priest, to pray for and with; as a king, to govern, direct, and provide for them.”

### **Children are a Blessing from the Lord**

Psalm 127:3-5, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,

the fruit of the womb a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

are the children of one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man

who fills his quiver with them!

He shall not be put to shame

when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

### **A Multi-Generational Church**

2 Timothy 1:5-7, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

### **Outline**

In order to grow up godly children, parents must...

- model godliness – Be as God is as a father
- connect with your children
- train your children in God’s Word
- discipline your children
- avoid provoking your children to anger
- grow with your children

#### **I. Model godliness.**

“Every Christian family ought to be as it were a little church, consecrated to Christ, and wholly influenced and governed by his rules. And family education and order are some of the chief means of grace.”

~ **Jonathan Edwards**

Parents (and especially fathers) must be models. Howard Hendricks says, “Children are not looking for perfect parents; but they are looking for honest parents.”<sup>1</sup> Parents often make mistakes. Children know that.

### **What is the Model of a Godly Parent?**

*1. Timothy’s home situation was far from perfect (Acts 16:1-3).*

Timothy’s home situation was not perfect. His father was Greek. His mother a godly Christian Jew. Timothy did not have a father who was “plugged in.” We do not know much about his father except that he was Greek. It is probable that he traveled a lot and was away from the home much. But Grandma Lois and mother Eunice had an amazing impact and influence on Timothy. And so, Timothy, though he likely had an absentee father, had a father in the faith that cared deeply about him!

He was not circumcised, because his father was Greek. Look over at **Acts 16:1-3**, “Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.”

*2. Timothy readily assisted Paul because of the spiritual model from his mother & grandmother (2 Tim. 3:11-15; 1:5).*

**2 Timothy 1:5**, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”

Timothy followed Paul. **2 Timothy 3:11**, “You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings...”

But Timothy first what it meant to be a disciple of Christ by his own mother. **2 Timothy 3:14-15**, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

### **Called to Grow Up Godly Offspring**

How do we grow up godly children in marriage? One of the reasons God brings two people together in marriage is for the purpose of raising godly children, children who look like him. **Malachi 2:15** says:

“Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”

### **Godliness is Imitating God**

But how is this accomplished? Obviously, the only perfect model of parenting is God the Father, and so we should imitate His loving example.

Children often model the character of their parents. Listen to how Paul challenged Christians: **Ephesians 5:1-2**, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

---

<sup>1</sup> Hendricks, Heaven Help the Home! 58.

## What is God Like as a Parent?

### *1. God compares Himself to a gentle, loving mother.*

**Isaiah 66:13-14**, “For thus says the Lord:

“Behold, I will extend peace to her [my people] like a river,

and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,

and bounced upon her knees.

13 As one whom his mother comforts,

so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

14 You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;”

God is one who is safe, like a little baby who feels safe in his mothers’ arms and nourished by her. Fathers and mothers, is that what your parenting is like? Does your parenting bring comfort to your children? When your children see you, do they rejoice?

These verses show us what God assumes the relationship between a mother and baby should be. Young mothers, please hear this: When you carry, cuddle, comfort, play with, feed, and delight in your infant, you are pleasing God. This relationship is beautiful to the mind of God and is worthy of your time and effort.<sup>2</sup>

### *2. God Sings and Rejoices Over Us*

**Zephaniah 3:17**, here we see the language of a dear mother and father with their baby.

“The Lord your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.”

### *3. God Disciplines Us Out of Love*

Hebrews 12:5-8, “And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?”

[Quoting from PROVERBS 3:12]

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,

nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,

and chastises every son whom he receives.”

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

---

<sup>2</sup> Chickering BSN RN IBCLC, Miriam ; Yoder DSN ARNP, Ronda. *The Gentle Art of Mothering: A Christian Guide to Infant Care* (Kindle Location 323). Grace & Truth Publishing, LLC. Kindle Edition.

## What about bad models and influences?

There is positive protection which the Bible calls **nurture**. Fathers are given the specific responsibility for this **positive protection** of children in **Ephesians 6:4**, "fathers...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." This is teaching the children the boundaries of the fence and how they are to live and worship God inside the fence. We all know that there are boundaries that are safe for children. When we think our child is in the back yard, we don't want him down the street at the pool hall.

### *1. Make sure the right kinds of influences are inside the fence.*

There is freedom and fun inside the fence. But we all know to be safe there has to be limits, and limits are good. Begin with the Ten Commandments. Every child in this church should know God's Law backward and forward. The moral law of God shows us God's holy character and how best to operate under His Lordship and control over our lives. Nurturing is teaching our children how to live under the protection of God. An earthly father is simply a representative of the Heavenly Father. It is wonderful to live under God's authority. He is loving and wants and knows what is best for us. The world and the devil are both selfish and do not care about our children. We must live under God's loving and tender authority.

### **Be Careful What's Inside the Fence**

Be careful what you allow inside the fence. I would never let a strange dog inside our yard and walk away. If there was a dog I didn't know, I would keep him on a leash and keep my eye on him at all times. The moment I saw it lurch toward a child I would make sure that dog was outside of my yard and not allowed back in. Do you know the kids hanging out with your kids? What are they looking at on their phones, computers? What are they doing at school?

We wouldn't let a strange dog into our yard, but it seems we let them hang out with our children, enter into our computers and phones, etc. We must get the strange dogs out of our yards. We must have the same care with the souls of our children. Your children are being lunged at with ungodly influences: TV, school, peers. Are you protecting your children? Are you walking away or ignoring those things that can steal your child's soul for eternity? Fathers, it is your responsibility to make sure the wrong influences don't get inside the fence!

### **Medicine Cabinet Illustration**

If we left our children to **play in the medicine cabinet**, we would be irresponsible. Do you know if your children are in dangerous or poisonous environments? I wonder if God would charge us at times with being a spiritually unfit and neglectful parent.

The father has the specific duty to protect his children. Know what's on the TV. Know what is going on at school. You had better be careful who your children are with at all times. Fathers, you are the gatekeepers. Don't walk away from the gate. Don't close your eyes to what gets in the gate.

### *2. Make sure when you as parents fail, that you model repentance.*

Sometimes the bad influence inside the fence is mom and dad. When you fail to model godliness then model repentance! When I sin, I gather my children before me and repent.

Having a godly environment does not mean you are perfect, but it does mean you are consistently modelling repentance.

### **The 8 Characteristics of Repentance**

As a parent, you need to be constantly modeling the 8 characteristics of repentance from **2 Cor. 7:10–11**, “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.”

- 1 – Forsake sin completely, “repentance...without regret”
- 2 – Forsake sin immediately, “what earnestness”
- 3 – Confess sin / coming clean, “what eagerness to clear yourselves”
- 4 – Hatred for sin because it violates God’s glory, “what indignation”
- 5 – The fear of God and His holiness, “what fear”
- 6 – The vehement desire to get right with God/others, “what longing”
- 7 – The enthusiastic desire to please God, “what zeal”
- 8 – The realization that God’s grace is costly, “what punishment”

### **What about the child’s responsibility?**

Let me say a word on the matter of the child’s own responsibility. Children are their own people, and they have their own set of responsibilities both before God and others. Consequently, although they may be taught wisely and raised morally and that instruction be supported by parental example, they nevertheless sometimes do go astray, and that is not necessarily the parents’ fault.

The first example of child-rearing in the Bible should teach us that. God reared Adam and Eve and they fell into sin.

We know that Adam and Eve were a sinful man and woman after the Fall, as we all are. But they were undoubtedly model parents nonetheless. They were highly intelligent and knew God intimately. Moreover, they are numbered in the godly line of the age before the Flood, the line which contained such outstanding spiritual giants as Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. There is no question but that they raised their children to know and honor God. Yet in spite of this their first child, Cain, turned out to be a murderer. Why? The Bible says it was the result of the outworkings of his own sinful heart.

## II. **Connect with your children.**

**Proverbs 4:23** (NASB), “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” The same should be said of children. Watch over and connect with your children’s hearts because that’s where the wellsprings of how they live come from.

### **1. Count Them as Precious**

**Matthew 18:10**, “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

There is no need for us to get bogged down on whether or not every child of God or every “little one” has a guardian angel. It seems they do—if not *a* guardian angel (cf. Acts 12:15), guardian *angels* (cf. Luke 16:22)—that is, in the words of **Hebrews 1:14**, “ministering spirits sent out to serve ... those who are to inherit salvation.”<sup>3</sup> We have armies of angels protecting us.

The point is we must not despise, or take our children for granted. We are to connect with them! We are to count them as precious.

### **2. Respect them as beings made in the image of God.**

If you want to gain respect, you need to show respect to your children. Respect your children as those made in the image of God.

**James 3:9-10**, “With it [our tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”

### **3. Love your children as fellow neighbors.**

God has made your children some of your closest neighbors. Love them. Win their heart. Don’t treat them with disdain. Some parents think because God has given them authority in the home that they may use it any way they please.

You may never domineer over your children. That is abusive and sinful. So many of us as parents say the right thing with the wrong tone.

“Jacob, love your sister! Do it right now!” What does that teach them? There is a great disconnect.

### **4. Consider Jesus’ example of meekness and a welcoming spirit.**

In **Luke 18:16**, “But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” He is so gentle and meek with children. Meekness is strength under control.

**Matthew 11:28-29**, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### **5. Speak the truth in love to your children.**

**Eph. 4:15-16**, “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint

---

<sup>3</sup> O’Donnell, D. S. (2013). *Matthew: All Authority in Heaven and on Earth*. (R. K. Hughes, Ed.) (p. 505). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

Our words are only 7% of our speech. 97% is tone of voice, attitude, gestures and facial expression.

#### **6. Remember your relationship as a father or mother is temporary.**

Reach your children’s hearts! Listen to them. Connect with them. Treat them with respect. Soon your child will not be in a subordinate position to you. You will be equals walking around on the new heaven and the new earth together.

### **III. Train your children in God’s Word.**

#### **1. Start young and aim for conversion.**

2 Timothy 3:14-17, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Those Scriptures made Timothy “wise unto salvation.” That’s our aim. If a child is not yet born again, they have a nature that they cannot overcome.

You will not see any meaningful and lasting change in your child until they are converted.

#### **2. Make no excuses for not training your children.**

In **2 Tim. 1:5** we find that this faith first dwelt in “grandmother Lois and ... mother Eunice.” Where was dad? Isn’t it his responsibility? Yes, but they made no excuses. They evangelized Timothy. They aimed for conversion.

Grandmother Lois and Mother Eunice had a zeal to train up young Timothy. We read that Jesus has an indignation for those who would neglect children. **Mark 10:14**, “When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.””

#### **3. Realize the greatest mission field in the world is your children.**

O how we need to bring our children to Jesus! Who are the most vital missionaries in the world: missionary mom and missionary dad. Missionary Grandma and Grandpa.

How we need to see our children come to know the Lord! **The greatest mission field in all the world is right here before us!** Children—they must be taught what it is to come the Lord at a young age! This is the theme of our message this Lord’s Day! Let the children come to Jesus!

#### **Faithfulness in the Church, But Lose Your Children**

You may be faithful in the work of the church, but that does NOT mean your children will come to Christ. You must personally invest the Gospel in them. Years ago, the attitude was, if you take care of God’s church, God will take care of your family. This was especially the case among preachers of the Gospel, and many families were lost. But this was also the case in many families at the time, and it is still the case today.



### **What Excites You? Holy Ambition...**

What is it that excites you? It is good to have holy, God-centered ambition. But some men are more excited about their golf game or a new account at work than spending time with their own children. It is good to have zeal and ambition. But put your zeal and ambition in the right place. Do you weep for your children's souls? They are daily coming closer to their appointment with God. This day with your children will never be repeated. Cherish the moment. There will be a time very soon when you will not have this great influence over them. Your children will soon be gone. Reach them while you still have influence with them. You may say, I will wait until they understand more to teach them. You are making a mistake! Don't turn your children away from Jesus!

### **4. Remember the displeasure of Jesus when we neglect our children.**

We see the anger of the Lord in Mark 10:14, "When Jesus saw this, he was indignant [much displeased]". Jesus was *furios*! What is it that makes one who is so gentle and loving to be furious? It is when we neglect our children.

### **How Do We Neglect Our Children?**

Christ is zealous to save little ones that **His anger flashes** when we neglect the spiritual well-being of little ones. Shall not the Lamb that was slain receive the full reward for His suffering?! Christ would today bring your little ones in to the Kingdom. Will you neglect them and think that He will not save them? How do we neglect them?

- We expose them to worldly things that will enslave them and think it's cute.
- We allow our children's friends to raise them and teach them how to live.
- We neglect them when we fail to pray for our children
- When we fail to pray WITH our children
- When we do not lovingly and earnestly teach them the Gospel.
- When we get exasperated with them
- When we do not spend time with them and show other things to be more important than them.

### **We Don't Expect the Conversion of Our Children**

One way we hinder children, is that we as parents do not really expect the conversion of our children. How many mothers and fathers really expect their children to be converted at an early age?

**Your indifference will show in their lives.** The fact that you do not pray for them, that you do not evangelize them, and that you do not admonish them in the way of the Lord may be the reason why you may lose your child to the world in just a few short years. Are you teaching your children?

### **4. Remember you don't have the wisdom you need in yourself.**

We all lack wisdom don't we? **James 1:5** says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

We are told in **Proverbs 22:6**, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

## 5. Remember the Word of God is powerful to do the job you can't.

**Proverbs 2:6**, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

**John 6:63**, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."

**Hebrews 4:12-13**, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

## 6. Be intentional in how you teach your children the Word of God

### ❖ Be intentional about your content

- Use the 10 commandments, a child's catechism; go through a book of the Bible.
- Use a child's storybook Bible, like "The Big Picture Story Bible" (*my favorite*) or the "Jesus Storybook Bible"
- If the child is older, have them be reading through the Bible and each person share what they are learning each night.

### ❖ Be intentional about your timing

- Take time when you are all together to instruct. Sometimes the best time is after dinner. But really, it should be a culture of instruction that revolves around all of life as **Deut. 6:4-7** teaches: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

### ❖ Be intentional about your praying

- Take time to kneel down and pray sincerely to God with your children. Give them an opportunity to pray. Join hands. Make it rich and intentional. It doesn't need to be long, but truly sincere. Pray for needs of the church, salvation for people, missionaries, other parts of the world that need evangelized. Pray for revival. Pray for God to manifest himself through answered prayer, divine healing of those who are sick, spiritual reconciliations.

## Conclusion

You know our children don't come with an owner's manual. We have no clue how to grow up godly children. The only way to do it is to introduce them to Jesus.

# The Ten Commandments for Children

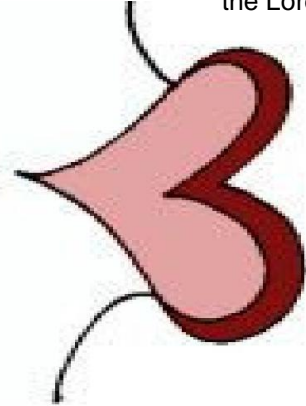
1. Thou shalt have no other gods



2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images



3. Thou shalt not take the Lord thy God



4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.



5. Honor thy mother and father.



6. Thou shalt not kill.



7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.



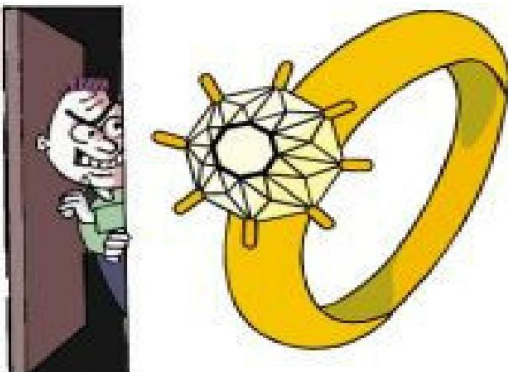
8. Thou shalt not steal.



9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.



10. Thou shalt not covet.



## Teaching the Commandments

*“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” -Galatians 3:24*

Teach the following commandments to your children. They need not know the verse references. Use God’s law as a schoolmaster that will lead your children to Christ. Have even your young children memorize them. God will use these commandments in their hearts later, even if they do not understand the words now. The law is the mirror that shows us our deep need of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1. Q. What is the first commandment of God’s moral Law?**

*A. Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).*

**2. Q. What is the second commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (Exodus 20:4).*

**3. Q. What is the third commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain (Exodus 20:7).*

**4. Q. What is the fourth commandment?**

*A. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8).*

**5. Q. What is the fifth commandment?**

*A. Honor thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12).*

**6. Q. What is the sixth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not kill (Exodus 20:13).*

**7. Q. What is the seventh commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).*

**8. Q. What is the eighth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not steal (Exodus 20:15).*

**9. Q. What is the ninth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not bear false witness (Exodus 20:16).*

**10. Q. What is the tenth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not covet (Exodus 20:17).*

The purpose of the law is not to make us righteous—it is to act as a mirror to show our sin stain, and our need for Christ.

“The Law is also very useful, because it shows us our defections and stains. It is like the looking-glass which my lady holds up to her face, that she may see if there be any spot on it. But she cannot wash her face with the looking-glass. When the mirror has done its utmost then there are the same stains. It

cannot take away a single spot, it can only show where one is. And the Law, though it reveals our sin, our shortcomings, our transgressions, it cannot remove the sin or the transgression. It is weak for that purpose, because it was never intended to accomplish such an end.” - CHARLES SPURGEON

After giving the 10 Commandments, Moses says in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*” We also ought to teach God’s law diligently to our children.

## Explaining the Commandments

“*Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*” - Romans 3:19-20

Have your child or children learn to explain the commandments in simple terms. I like to begin with number 10 and go backwards.

### 10. Q. What does it mean to covet?

A. *It means to whine and fuss and get my own way. It means to be greedy and selfish and self-centered, never thinking of others.*

### 9. Q. What does it mean to bear false witness?

A. *It means to tell lies, to be sneaky, to hide the truth, to exaggerate the truth, or not tell the whole truth.*

### 8. Q. What does it mean to steal?

A. *It means to take something that belongs to someone else without their permission. Someone who steals is called a thief. The heart of a thief is never to share or to give to others, but to take and be selfish. This is especially seen when children are playing with toys. If someone takes your toy, what should you do? You should give them two, because Jesus said, “ if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you” (Matt. 5:41-42).*

### 7. Q. What does it mean to commit adultery?

A. *It means to leave your husband or your wife. God tells mommies and daddies to stay together forever, because God has joined them together (Matt. 19:6). God also says that we are not to commit spiritual adultery and turn our back on Him (James 4:4). [For older children you can also tell them that Jesus tells us that if we look on another person with lust we have committed adultery with them already in our heart—Matt. 5:28].*

**6. Q. What does it mean to kill?**

A. *It means to take someone's life or to murder. But Jesus says, we are not even to call someone a bad name. Je-sus says that's the same thing as murder because we are discounting them as a human being—Matt. 5:21-22.*

**5. Q. What does it mean to honor father and mother?**

A. *It means to obey them—immediately, completely, and sweetly (with a happy attitude).*

**4. Q. What does it mean to keep the Sabbath day holy?**

A. *It means to dedicate one day out of seven to God for His worship with His people. Since the creation of the world, all of God's people have given God a day to reflect on Him and worship Him. Christians worship on Sunday because it is the day that Jesus rose from the dead.*

**3. Q. What does it mean not to take God's Name in vain?**

A. *It means to blaspheme God's name and treat it in a common way. We are forbidden from referring to God or any of His works or attributes in a vain way. We are not to say things like, "O my Word" for God's Word is sacred, or "Mercy me!" because God's mercy is sacred. We are not to say "O Gosh" because a euphemism is the same as saying the actual word. There are many other ways of blaspheming God, such as in curse words. It is also taking God's Name in vain for a person to call themselves a Christian and live contrary to God.*

**2. Q. What does it mean not to make graven images?**

A. *It means to make God in man's image, or to twist my understanding of Him to be like a created being. I can do this by making a statue of wood or stone and calling it God. Or I can simply say, "To me God is..." and decide what I want God to be. God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible alone. To change what He is in my own imagination is idolatry.*

**1. Q. What does it mean to have no other gods before God?**

A. *It means to seek God first above all other things and people.*