

Teaching and Praying for our Children (Brenda Hudson)

Several years ago there was a short piece that was written by Robert Fulghum titled "All I Really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten"; which became a part of a book by the same name. 'Mostly what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox. These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you got them. Clean up your mess. Say your sorry when you hurt somebody, and the list goes on and on.'

Question is how did we learn it? By reading and studying? No. By hearing it over and over again and by seeing it modeled in front of us by people we looked up to! Some of those people may have been a Sunday School teacher, pastor, but I'm believing that for most, it was a father and/or mother.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. (Deutoronomy 6:4-9)

These lines teach us two important things:

1. Loving God does not come naturally - it must be taught.
2. The family is the ideal place to teach the love of God.

These values are going to be "caught as much as they're "taught"-in the daily routine of life! Parents often teach when they least realize it! Help them to learn the principles of right and wrong. Teach them to make commitments to do right. Help them to make decisions under guidance. Jesus said, "A cup of cold water given in my name will not lose its reward. We are living examples; taught by the things that are caught in everyday living.

Why Pray for our Children

1. Because they are a special gift from God to us.
2. Because their whole life is before them
3. That they may be saved
4. That they grow and serve the Lord
5. That they may have a hedge of protection around them
6. Because of your natural love that wants to give them the best of everything.
7. That they must develop good lifelong habits.
8. That they must develop good decision-making habits.

How to pray with your Children

1. With a meaningful touch.(reinforcing your love.)
2. Embrace (putting value on them as individuals.)
3. Holding
4. Touching the head
5. Holding hands
6. Quoting scripture (speaking God's word audibly over them.)
7. Praying a special blessing on them

How to pray for your Children

1. At the family table or altar, or prayer time
2. Pray with them as they leave for school
3. Pray daily in your quiet time
4. Keep a journal/ or prayer list of answers
5. Share your prayer requests and answers