

HOW TO RAISE KIDS OF CHARACTER

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Character has been said to be “doing right no matter what the cost or consequences, whether anyone is looking or not.”

To grow kids of character, you

1 Must know what character is and communicate it to your kids.

Character is the very attributes God possesses. Our job is to glorify God, to learn to be more like Jesus

- My early years
- My signers book
- Thomas Jefferson, a signer from VA, established the Bible as the primary book for use in Washington City schools when he was President.
- Benjamin Rush, a signer from Pennsylvania, and also a man of God, wrote a pamphlet called “Defense of the Use of the Bible as a School book”.

He states his 5 propositions:

- 1.) That Christianity is the only true and perfect religion; and that in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obey its precepts, they will be wise and happy.
- 2.) That a better knowledge of this religion is to acquired by reading the Bible than in any other way
- 3.) That the Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.
- 4.) That knowledge is most durable, and religious instruction most useful, when imparted in early life.
- 5.) That the Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life

He states the need to:

- 1.) teach the principles of the Bible before other academics
2. focus on Bible teaching in the first seven years of a child’s life, as young children are more capable of receiving God’s truth while young
3. Children need to be impressed with God’s standards of right and wrong
Good habits learned early become cemented in a child’s life.
- 4.) Use multiple senses of the child to communicate God’s truths to him, ear , eye, lessons, etc
- 5.) The interesting events of the OT and NT captivate young children and through them, godly principles are internalized in their lives.
- 6.) The spirit of a child responds to the truth contained in God’s Word.
- 7.) The mind has a wonderful capacity which enables it to recover knowledge acquired in early life, as a person grows older. The Bible is the only book which is capable of affording this support to old age; and it is for this reason that we find it resorted to with so much diligence and pleasure by such old people as have read it in early life.
- 8.) God places his blessing on nations that follow his principles set forth in His word. We are commanded in Deut. 6 to teach them diligently to our children.

Benjamin Franklin's standards:

This is his list of character qualities:

- TEMPERANCE- Eat not to dullness, drink not to elevation
- SILENCE- Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself, avoid trifling conversation
- ORDER- Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time
- RESOLUTION- Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve
- FRUGALITY- Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself, i.e. waste nothing
- INDUSTRY- Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions
- SINCERITY- Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly; and if you speak, speak accordingly
- JUSTICE- Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty
- MODERATION - Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve
- CLEANLINESS- Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation
- TRAQUILITY- Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable
- CHASTITY- Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation
- HUMILITY- Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

Let us heed the warning Noah Webster gave to us:

“The education of youth should be watched with the most scrupulous attention... It is much easier to introduce and establish an effectual system, than to correct by penal statues the ill effects of a bad system.. The education of youth, lays the foundation on with both law and gospel rest for success.”

2.) Okay, so what can we do?

- TEACH them the character qualities set forth in the Bible. I Corinthians 10:11
Boys can be taught the character of godly Bible men and girls of godly Bible women- Bible heroes.



- -Show **Character Sketch quilts**
- -**Men chart**
- -**Character quality curtains**
- Job 12:7.8 , as well as Proverbs 30 tell us that God has also given us animals, which display these same qualities in their lives, as a part of Gods' wonderful design.

- Point out character qualities in other people your child comes in contact with
- A character quality chart may be useful
- Character qualities can be mentioned throughout the day as well,
- We often had a character quality of the month
- Ex/ **Orderliness**- room check, drawer check, containers with pictures for toys, Or **kindness** (esp toward brother or sister having conflict with) Plan a special surprise, cupcake etc, where treasure is there heart be also.
Availability- **helping** elderly neighbor by raking his leaves, talking to him if lonely
Responsibility- **feeding the birds or dog, etc**

Show our practical projects

KEY- gear Scripture memory to character needs in your kids lives ex. Diligent./slothful

Remember, every negative character quality in your life or your child's life is just a positive character quality misused. Your job is to direct and steer child in proper direction using Gods' Word as your guide.

3.) Teach them to memorize and hide God's Word in their heart.

Psalm 119:9-The Word of God keeps a young man pure.

Psalm 119:11- Word in their hearts will keep them from sinning

Deut. 31:9-13-teaches them to fear God

A. Verses can be taught in many ways. One of the things we've done is to write verses on 5x7cards and illustrate verse with simple figures on the front.

- Apply the verses to daily situations whenever appropriate
- EX.
- Prov. 15:4- Control of griping
- Matthew 5:5- trusting God that what Mommy and Daddy say is the very best thing for me right now
- Matthew 5:7- instruction in forgiving brothers, sisters, friends, etc
- Ephesians 6:1- instruction to obey parents, because it's the right thing to do.

B. When your child is faced with a problem, scripture is the answer, memorize, explain, and help develop practical projects to implement it in their lives.

Examples:

Psalm 139- self-image problem

Matthew 5:10- Standing alone, courage

Proverbs 16:32 & 15:28- Talking too much

Proverbs 2:9- Faced with a difficult decision

Ephesians 4:26- Angry at one another

C. Read them God's Word before they can even read. They will develop an interest and desire for Scripture at an early age.

D. Help them to see God's hand in daily experiences

4.) Treat your child with respect.

- Treat with courtesy, as you would an adult
- Don't send child away from your presence as a punishment-implies rejection of person
- Respect child's interests. They are just as important to him, as yours are to you.
- Don't tell 'Cute kid' stories that embarrass.
- Don't grab things from him'
- Tell your child you love him, often and tell him why-not his "qualifications", but his significance to you and God.
- Tell your child what pleases you about him. Communicate thankfulness for him.
- Point out positive character qualities in his life, or when he is trying to do right. Emphasize that all their abilities and qualities are given to them by God for the purpose of accomplishing His goal or plan for their life.

5.) Teach him his spiritual heritage.

1. Jeremiah 1:5-10 tells us God has a plan for a child even before he is conceived. Also Judges 13:8, 12, Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 139:13-16, Acts 7:5, Luke 2:2

2. God forms a child in his mother's womb. Eccles.: 11:5, Psalm 139:13-16, Luke 1:76

3. God wants to use even a young child. His plan is already at work. II Tim. 3:15, I Samuel 2:11, 18, 21, 26. Luke 1:66

4. God can let a child know his specific purposes for him at an early age, or even to his mother before conception. I Sam. 3 (esp. 1, 4, 19), Gen. 16:11, Isaiah 49 (whole chapter)

5. A child has an important testimony for the Lord. Prov. 20:11, Luke 1:80, 2:40

6.) Teach your child to pray.

A. Teach a child the different parts of prayer- Thankfulness, Praise, Petitions for Others, For Self,

B. Share with the family when God answers prayers. Possibly keep a family log (sharing requests and answered prayer) for children and grandchildren to look back on.

C. Train child to pray at table, at bedtime, throughout the day. Encourage him to pray at any time, wherever they are, talking to God as a friend, not with flowery words. Eph. 6:18

7.) Teach your child about your experiences with the Lord and what He is doing for you.

8.) Teach responsibility in the home

9.) Additional resources we've found useful: (We carry most of these at our table.

Come take a look at them.)



Child's Book of Character Building

(out of print, limited quantities)

ex. Availability-listening with the ears, eyes and heart

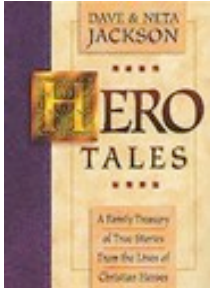
Hero Tales – ex. William Bradford- integrity

-Brother Andrew- obedience

-George Washington Carver- Resourcefulness]

-Betty Greene- Availability

-Jonathan Goforth- Vision



God's Wisdom for Little Boys and God's Wisdom for Little Girls-

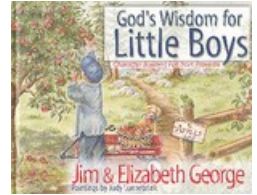
Ex. God's little boy is:

Giving

Wise

Hard Working

Priceless



God's little girl is:

Cheerful

Caring

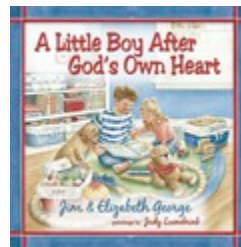
Kind

Diligent



A Little Boy After God's Own Heart and A Little Girl After God's Own Heart

A little boy's heart is filled with joy, love peace, patience, goodness, kindness



A little patience, gentleness,

girls heart is self-control, etc,

filled with love,

When I'm a Daddy- a little boys guide to Biblical fatherhood



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When I'm a Mommy- a little girls paraphrase of Proverbs

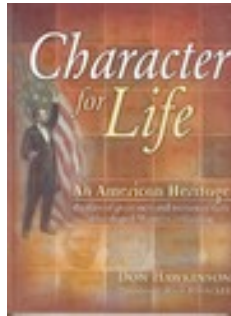
Both contain Bible verses at the bottom of each page

Character for Life- Profiles of great men and women of faith who shaped Western civilization

Joy-Charles Wesley

Dependence on God-Fanny Crosby

Kindness- George Washington Carver



Integrity-George Washington

David Brainerd, William Penn, Florence Nightingale, John Marshall and more

Character Sketches – available through **iblp.org**

Also have character booklets

10). When kids are raised this way:

Parents can expect their kids to have a sense of mission, a vision for God to use them a mighty way. It builds others-mindedness in them. We have been blessed to hear over the years the things that our kids have done just to be a blessing to others.