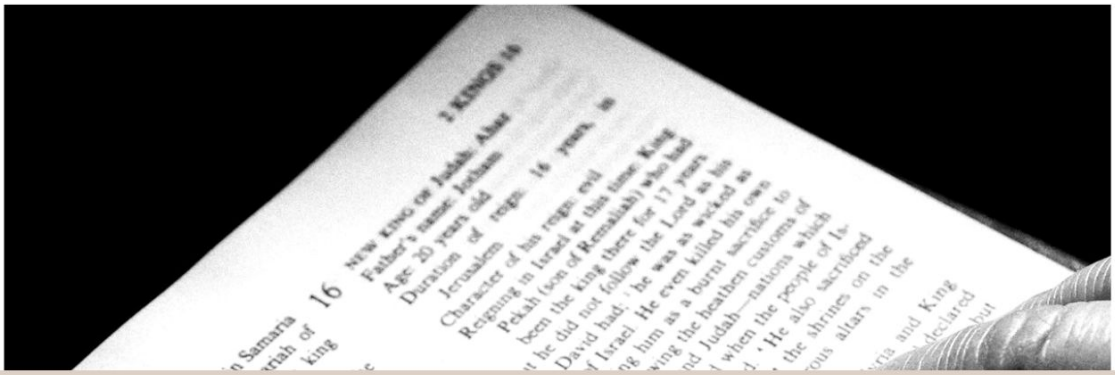
A GUIDE FOR THOSE RAISING AND TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION IN CHRIST



Raising Disciples in a Broken World

A LOST GENERATION
How to Effectively Teach Children & Youth the Bible.



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Raising Disciples in a Broken World

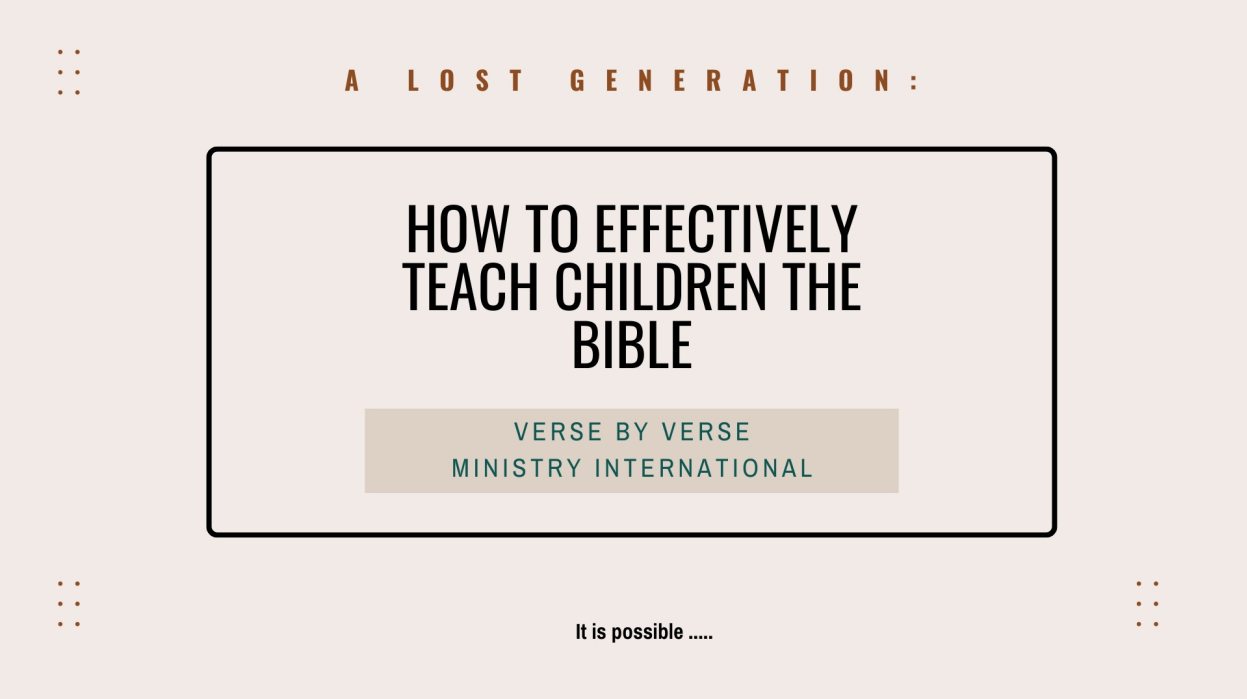
A Guide for Those Raising and Teaching the Next Generation in Christ

Proverbs 22:6
Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

2 Timothy 2:15
Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

"Instead of teaching the facts and history to the unbeliever to persuade, we need to teach the believer the facts and history to defend the truth."

- S & J Smith



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Introduction

Today, both Christians and unbelievers are increasingly biblically illiterate. Instead of only teaching facts and history to persuade unbelievers, we must equip believers—especially the next generation—with the truth so they can defend their faith.

The Crisis We Face

- 36% of churches post-COVID still do not have a functioning children's ministry.
- 94% of parents of preteens do not teach the Bible as the ultimate authority.
- Most parents mix tradition, culture, and other ideas to create a personal foundation of belief.
- 93% of churches tell Bible stories but do not teach Bible truths or show children how Jesus is in the Scriptures (Barna).
- Only 4% of born-again Christian parents hold to a consistent biblical worldview.

👉 **A parent's primary responsibility:** to prepare their children for the life God intends by nurturing them in a biblical worldview—a filter that shapes every decision in harmony with God's Word (teaching & principles).



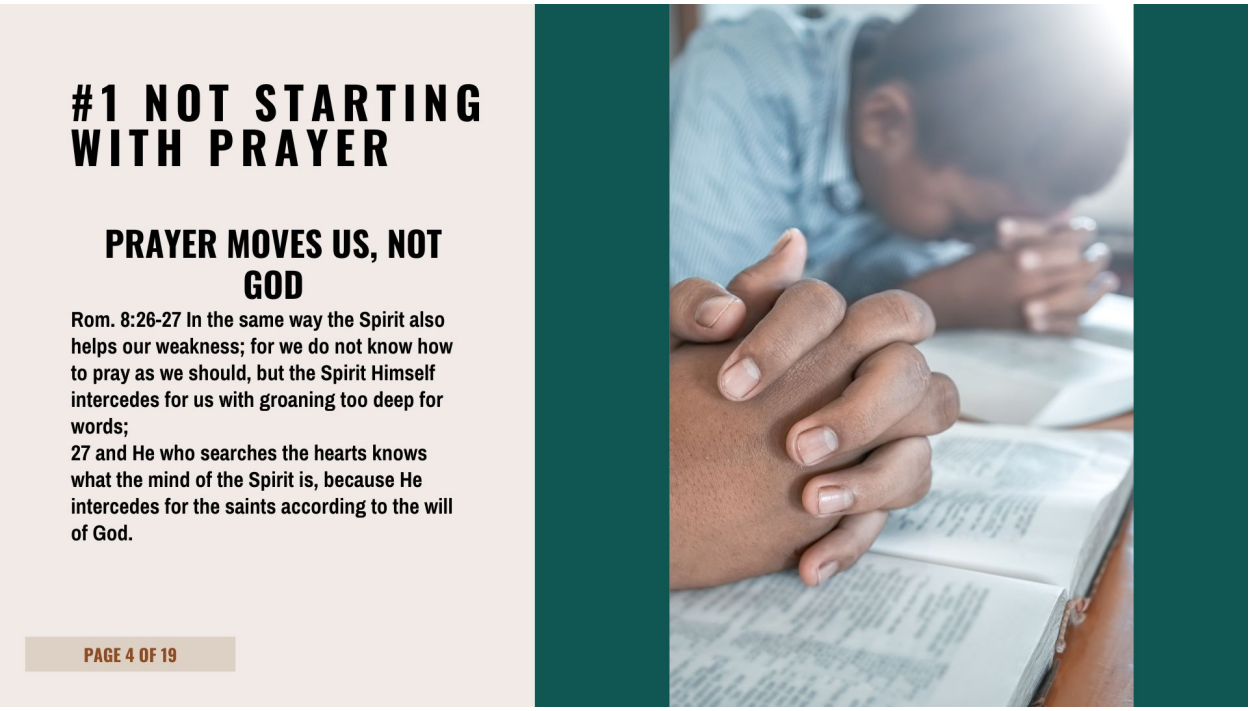
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Top 6 Mistakes When Teaching Kids

1. Neglecting Prayer

Prayer is our direct access to God (Philippians 4:6–7). It is worship from the heart, guided by the Spirit, effective because of Christ our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–16). Teaching begins and continues with prayer—an act of surrender and trust.

- As the Bible teaches us, prayer provides Christians with the opportunity to speak directly to God.
- Prayer extends beyond mere words, and the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our prayer life.
- Prayer is an act of worship from the heart according to the will of God.
- Furthermore, our prayer is spiritually meaningful and effective because we have a relationship with Christ, who serves as our High Priest to intercede on our behalf, which is why we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Prayer is an act of surrender and dependency on God. Trust that He will pick up your pieces and use you to minister to those who are spiritually in need.



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2. Not Starting at the Gospel

The Gospel: We Must Start Here and Never Stop (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Now I make known to you, brothers and sisters, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which you also **received**, in which you also **stand**, 2 by which you also are **saved**, if you hold firmly to the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

3 For I handed down to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, 4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**,

Every effort in discipling children must begin—and continually return—to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Never assume that every child in your care is already a believer. Week after week, there may be unbelieving children sitting under your teaching. They may know the stories of the Bible, but have not yet trusted in the Savior those stories point to.

The Gospel must be woven into everything we teach:

- God is holy and perfect.
- We are sinful and separated from Him.
- Jesus lived, died, and rose again to save us.
- By Grace through faith in Him, we are forgiven and made new.

👉 The Gospel is not just the starting point of discipleship—it is the foundation, the center, and the goal.

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3. Avoiding Hard Topics

Skipping difficult passages leaves children unprepared. By age 8, 90% of kids are already exposed to distorted views of morality and identity. Only 4% of professing Christians hold that the Bible is the ultimate authority for life and choices thereafter. If we don't teach them God's truth, the world will teach its counterfeit (Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

Exposure to Hard Truths

Teaching children the hard principles of God's Word is essential for their spiritual development. Avoiding these truths leaves them unprepared for the world they are already being shaped by.

The staggering reality is that children are constantly being programmed by:

- Television
- Peers
- Advertisements and media
- The culture around them

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👉 The question is: Will your children learn God's view, or the world's view?

Facing the Difficult Parts of Scripture:

Teaching the Bible to children will not always feel easy: It may be uncomfortable:

- Marriage Union
- Divorce
- Fornication
- Homosexuality

Biblical Understanding:

- Sometimes we don't fully understand passages ourselves.
- That's okay—it's better to admit, "I don't know, but I'll study and get back to you" than to avoid the question.

It may feel boring:

- Certain sections—like genealogies or long historical accounts—can be difficult for kids.
- With younger children, you can read and pray through those passages first, then simply summarize the main point.
- Remember: there is always something significant in God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

It is always worth modeling:

- By persevering through the hard or "boring" parts, you show your children a genuine love and desire to understand Scripture deeply.
- This example teaches them that God's Word is worth studying—even when it requires patience.

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4. Not Showing Jesus in Every Story

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible tells one unified story—God's redemption plan to deal with the problem of sin through Jesus Christ.

If Scripture is read without seeing Christ at the center, its true purpose is missed. The Bible is not simply a collection of stories, morals, or history—it is the revelation of a Savior who is both fully God and fully man.

The Bible is:

- 66 books of various genres
- 40+ authors from a variety of backgrounds and occupations
- 1,500+ years
- 10 civilizations
- 3 continents
- 3 languages
- 1 unified story of redemption

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The Bible is one unified story of redemption with Jesus at the CENTER of every page:

- Old Testament → anticipation
- Gospels → manifestation
- Acts → proclamation
- Epistles → explanation
- Revelation → consummation

From beginning to end, the Bible tells one epic story—about Jesus Christ. (Luke 24:27)

For example:

- In Genesis 1:3, the work of the Trinity is seen at creation—God spoke, the Spirit hovered, and the Word brought light (John 1:1–3).
- Moses foreshadows Christ: his birth was miraculous, he confronted the powers of evil, and he led God's people to freedom through a miraculous deliverance.
- Joseph foreshadows Christ: rejected by his brothers, falsely accused, yet later exalted to save many lives (Genesis 50:20).
- David foreshadows Christ: a shepherd-king who defeated the enemy no one else could face, pointing to Jesus, the Good Shepherd and eternal King.
- The Passover lamb foreshadows Christ: its blood spared God's people from judgment (Exodus 12), pointing to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Prophecies declare Him:

- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35)
- His ministry of healing and hope (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18)
- His suffering and death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53)
- His resurrection (Psalm 16:9–11; Acts 2:31)

👉 Every page of Scripture points us to the greater Redeemer—Jesus.

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5. Believing "I'm Not Good Enough"

Parents often doubt their ability to teach. But God chose you for this task and gave you the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). Your teaching is not based on your strength but on God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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6. Making It About Entertainment

Faith does not require flashy shows or watered-down stories. Scripture itself is full of amazing true accounts: Creation, the Flood, David & Goliath, Daniel in the lions' den, Jesus calming the storm. Kids can understand truth. What they need is Jesus—not a show.

- The Creation Account – God speaks the world into existence (Genesis 1–3).
- The Flood – Noah and his family are saved by God's ark (Genesis 7).
- The Judges – God raises up leaders to rescue His people from their enemies (Book of Judges).
- David & Goliath – A shepherd boy defeats a giant with faith and a sling (1 Samuel 17).
- Daniel in the Lions' Den – God shuts the mouths of lions to protect His servant (Daniel 6).
- Jesus Calms the Storm – With just a word, Jesus commands the wind and the waves (Matthew 8; Mark 4; John 6).
- Jesus Feeds the Thousands – With a few loaves and fish, Jesus provides more than enough (Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6).

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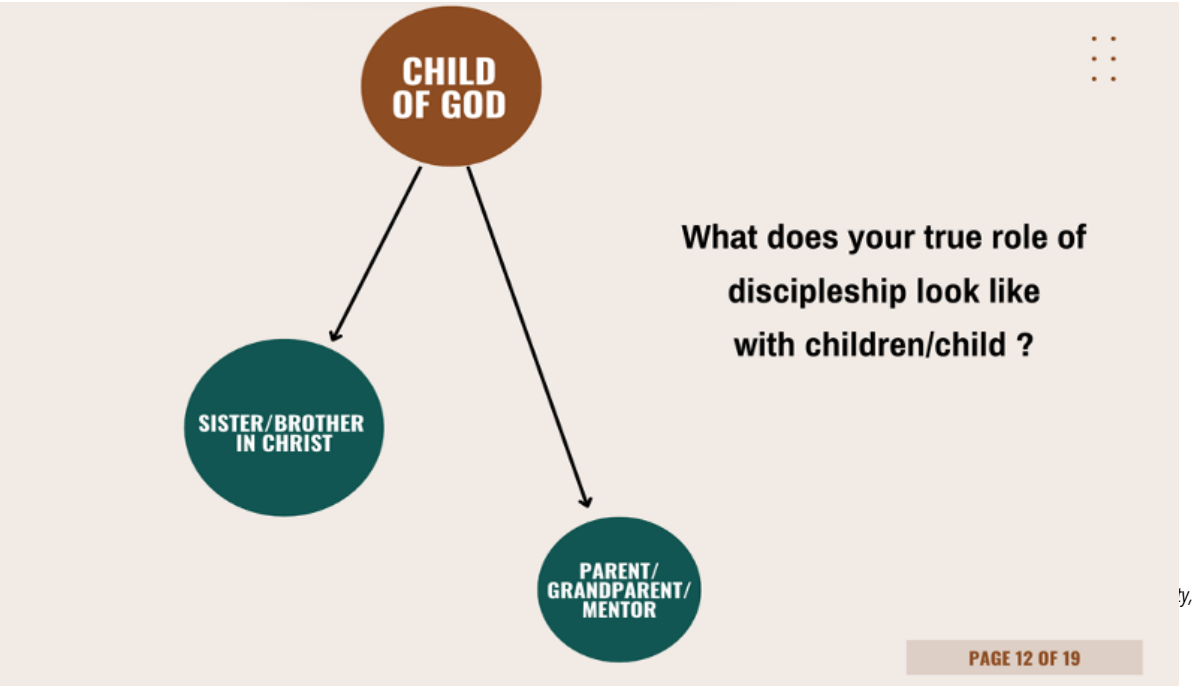
👉 These stories remind children that God is powerful, faithful, and present in every generation.

Your Role as Parent or Grandparent

Children and those spiritually young are first a child of God, entrusted to you for discipleship (Ephesians 1:4–5).

Looking Deeper at Our Role:
God has called us to look beyond earthly relationships when we think about parenting or grandparenting.

- As believers, we are all children of the same Father—brothers and sisters in Christ (John 1:12; Galatians 3:26).
- This truth changes how we disciple: your child is not only your son or daughter but also your eternal brother or sister in Christ.
- Modeling this perspective helps children understand that discipleship is about belonging to God's family first.
- Your children are not "less" than you, nor are they merely extensions of you—they are God's children, entrusted to your care.
- Because of this, you have a responsibility to show them love, respect, and guidance as fellow members of God's household.



👉 Seeing your role through **eternity's lens** transforms everyday parenting into eternal discipleship.

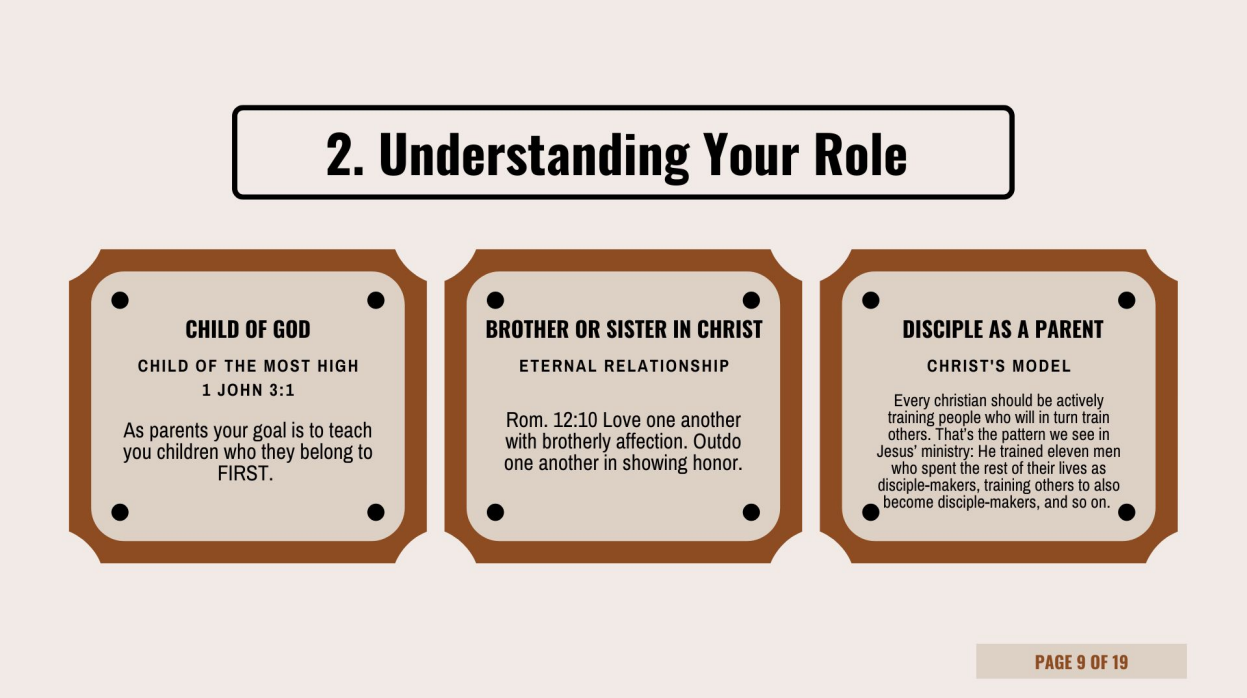
Parenting is Discipleship! Teaching kids & those spiritually immature may be the most crucial ministry you will ever have.

Our Role as Parents:
While your role is to be a parent (or grandparent), it is also much more. God has given you a divine assignment:

- God **specifically chose you** to guide and disciple this child.
- **To teach His ways** faithfully (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).
- **To lovingly discipline** as the Lord disciplines His own children (Hebrews 12:6).
- **To teach His Word**, so that your child grows in the knowledge of God and His truth (2 Timothy 3:15).

👉 Parenting is not an accident—it is a calling. God entrusted you with this child for His purposes.

Now That We Understand Our Role… the question becomes: **What do we do with this eternal role?**



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The Model of Discipleship

Jesus gave us a Discipleship Pattern:

- He taught and loved the crowds. (crowds)
- He discipled the twelve more closely. (the twelve)
- He is deeply invested in the three (Peter, James, John). (the three)

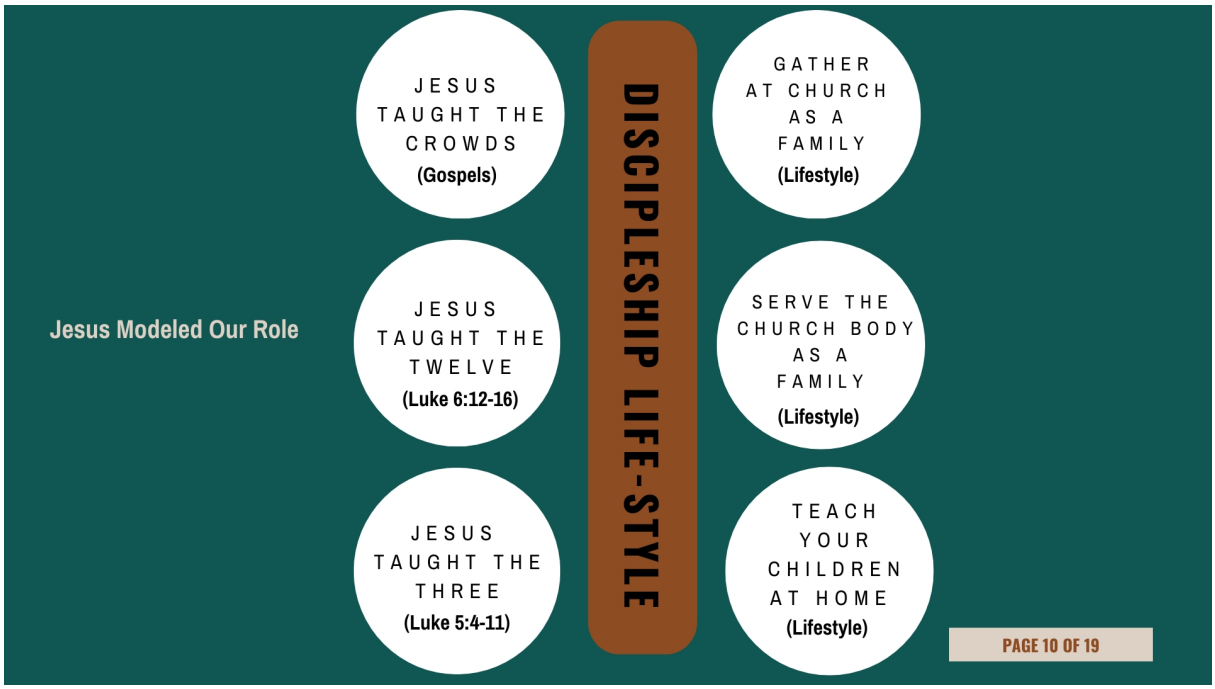
Jesus' Model Continues Today in the Family Unit:

- (crowds) **Gather at church as a Family.** Worship, teaching, and encouragement happen when we come together as the Church (Hebrews 10:24–25).

- (the twelve) **Serve the Church body as a Family.** Every disciple of Christ was called while already serving and working faithfully (Matthew 4:18–20). Children must see that serving others in the body is a natural part of following Jesus.

- (the three) **Teach your children at home.** Our goal is to raise children who not only serve people but also serve God Himself. (Colossians 3:23–24).

👉 Discipleship is not just about what we know, but how we live—together, in service to God.



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A Discipleship Life-Style:

- Make prayer normal.
- Talk often about Jesus (Deuteronomy 11:19).
- Live out Scripture daily.

Teaching Tools

Systematic Theology

Systematic theology is the attempt to organize all Christian doctrines in a logical order. EX: Christology (Jesus), Eschatology (End-times).

Every Christian practices **systematic theology**—often without realizing it. Systematic theology simply means understanding what the entire Bible says about a topic, then living and teaching that truth.

Example:

- The Bible says God made everything. (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16)
- The Bible says God hears our prayers. (Psalm 34:17; 1 John 5:14)
- The Bible says Jesus is coming again. (John 14:3; Revelation 22:20)

Why Study Systematic Theology?

Studying systematic theology helps both us and our children overcome wrong ideas that may come from tradition, culture, or faulty teaching. None of us has a perfect understanding of the Bible, so we need to see what all of Scripture says about a topic.

Example: Someone may not want to believe that Jesus is personally coming back to earth.

- If we only show them one or two verses, they might dismiss or twist those passages.

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- But if we show them twenty or thirty verses from across the Bible that all affirm Christ's return, the sheer weight of Scripture leaves little room for doubt.

👉 Systematic theology grounds us—and our children—in **the full counsel of God's Word**, helping us recognize truth and reject error. It is our foundation.

Systematic Theology Prepares Us:

Systematic theology doesn't just answer deep theological questions—it also prepares us to live faithfully in everyday life. It helps us answer:

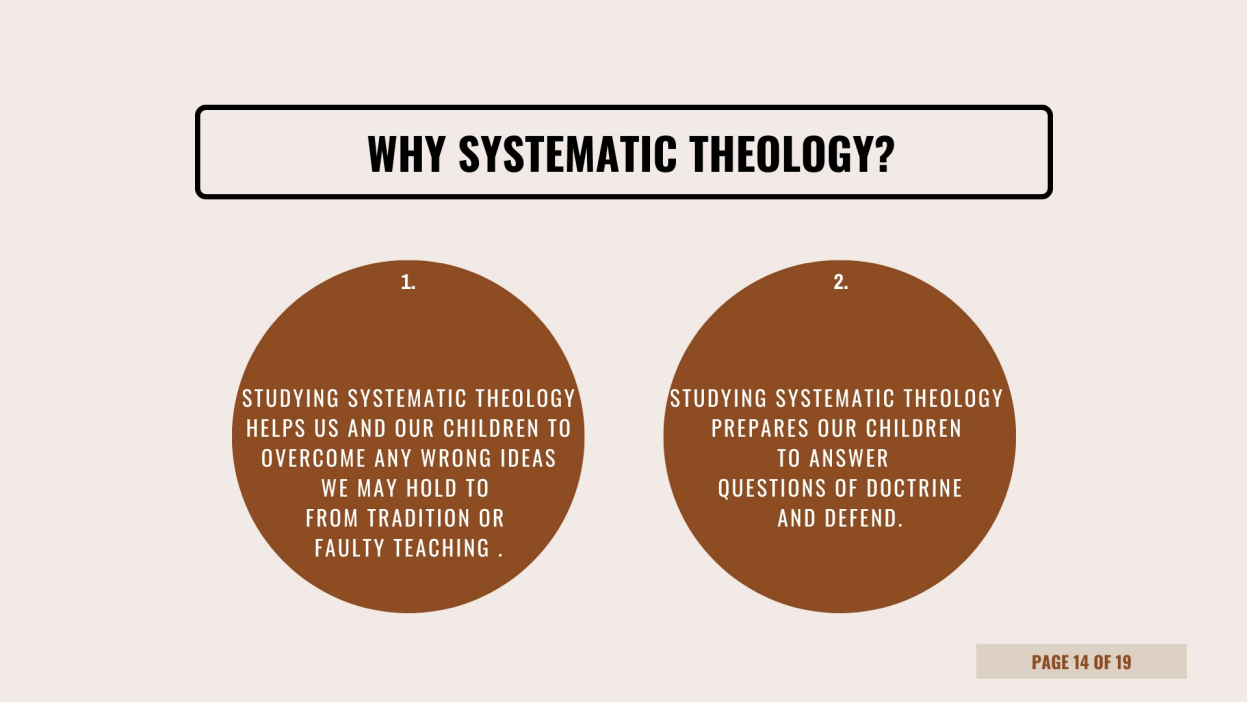
- **Marriage and Family** – What does the Bible teach about husband-wife relationships? (Ephesians 5:22–25)
- **Parenting** – What does Scripture say about raising children? (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Ephesians 6:4)
- **Witnessing** – How should we share our faith with a friend or coworker? (1 Peter 3:15)
- **Life Decisions** – What principles does the Bible give us for fields like psychology, economics, or science? (Colossians 2:3; Psalm 24:1)
- **Stewardship** – How does God's Word guide us in spending, saving, and tithing? (2 Corinthians 9:7; Proverbs 3:9)

Angelology – The study of angels
Bibliology – The study of the Bible
Christology – The study of Christ
Ecclesiology – The study of the church
Eschatology – The study of the end times[5]
Hamartiology – The study of sin
Paterology — The study of God the Father
Pneumatology – The study of the Holy Spirit
Soteriology – The study of salvation
Theological anthropology – The study of the nature of humanity.

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Theology proper – The study of the character of God
Israelology – The study of Israel in God's economy

👉 In short, systematic theology helps us and our children answer "What does the Bible say about this?" no matter the question.



Expositional Teaching

Expository teaching involves an organized teaching method where information is presented in a specific order. This helps to keep your focus and attention and lays out all of the information you need to know in a way that helps you to understand it, while keeping it in its proper context. (The way you would read any book)!

Walk through books of the Bible with children. Avoid pulling verses out of context. Show that every passage points to God's bigger story.

Exposure to Expositional Teaching:

- Skipping around the Bible can confuse kids. Instead, focus on one book or one topic at a time and walk through it carefully.

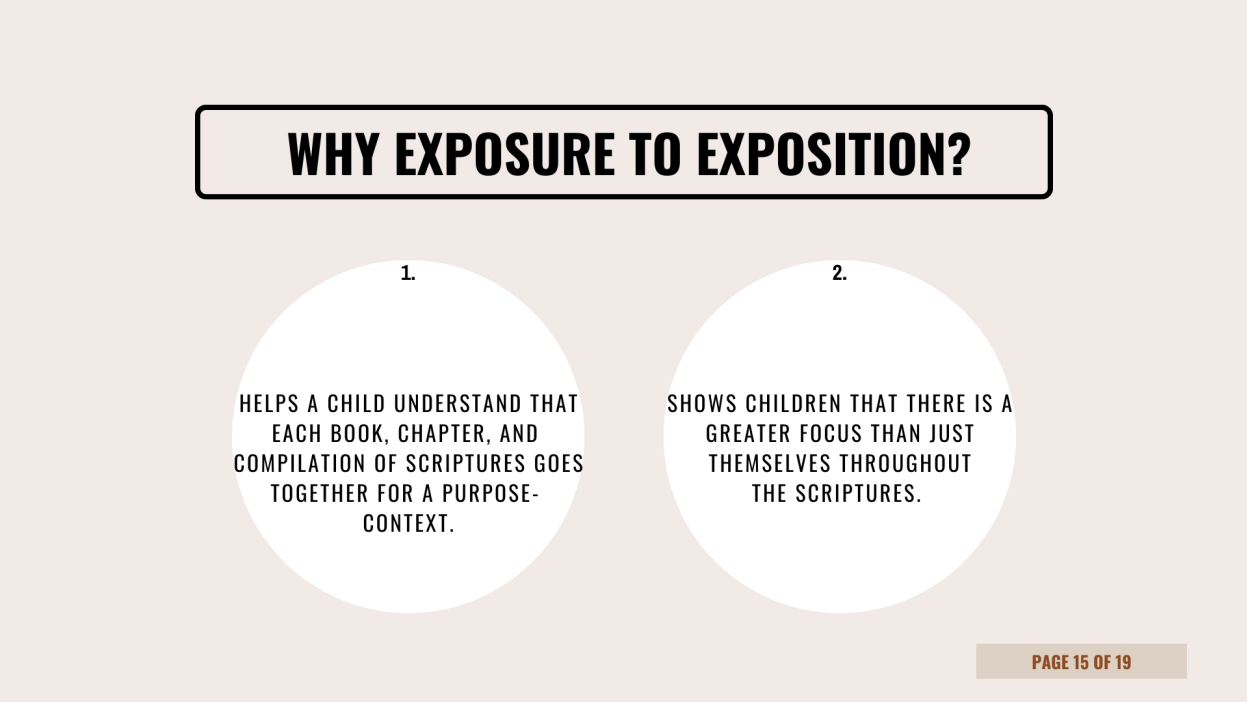
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- As you read whole chapters or even entire books, children begin to see how all of Scripture points to something greater—God's redemptive plan.
- A child's mind grasps truth best when it is presented in a clear, connected way. Compact and consistent teaching builds a correct understanding of context.

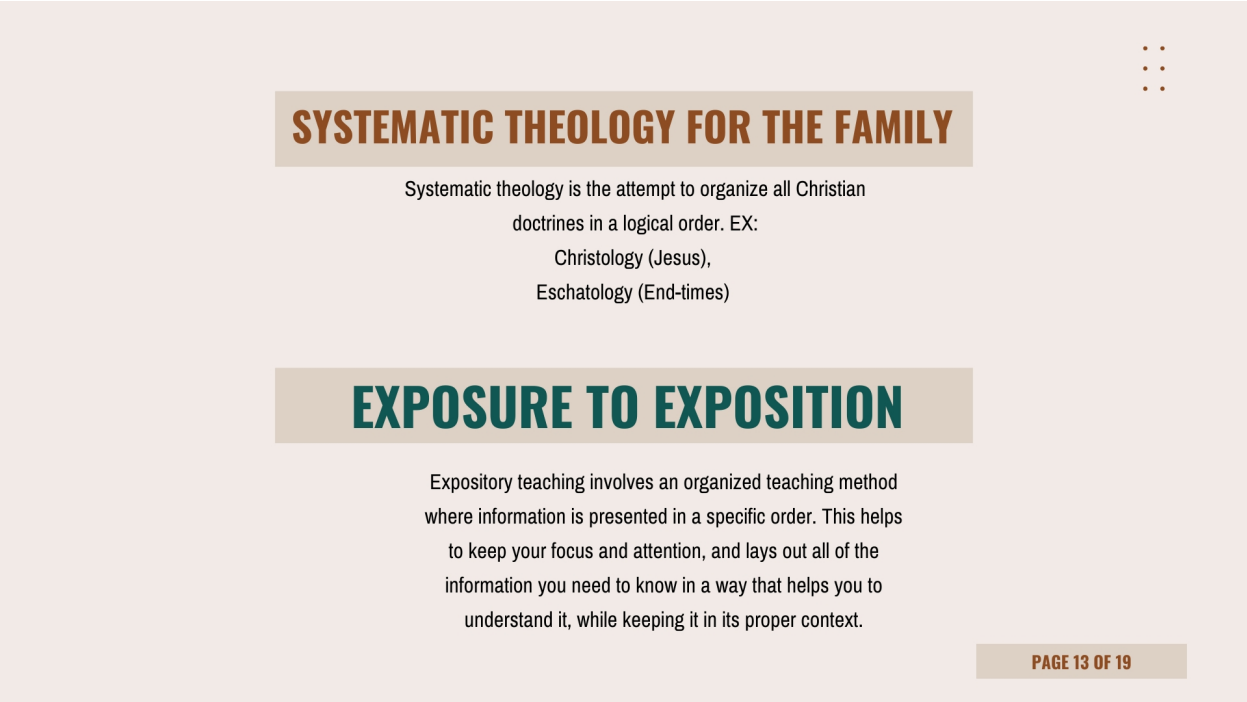
Exposition also teaches children that Scripture is about more than just themselves.

- While we may find personal encouragement in God's Word, not every passage is meant to be applied directly to our personal lives.
- Some Scriptures were written to specific people, in specific times, for specific purposes.
- By learning to see the bigger picture, kids discover that the Bible is first about God, His character, and His plan, and only then about how we fit into His story.

👉 Expositional teaching grounds children in the truth that all of Scripture is God-breathed and points to Christ (2 Timothy 3:16–17; Luke 24:27).



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Practical Ways to Implement

Prayer: Everything Starts Here

When it comes to discipling children, everything begins with prayer.

- Be intentional in bringing this request before God: *"Lord, help me teach these children Your Word."*
- Admit your struggles. It's okay to confess, *"This feels overwhelming,"* or even *"I don't naturally love teaching kids."* God meets us in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- Ask Him for wisdom on where to begin (James 1:5). Sometimes the best first step is simply starting with family prayer—gathering together to talk to God.

👉 Prayer is not just the beginning of discipleship—it is the foundation that sustains it.

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Show Up!

Half the battle in discipling your children is simply showing up and starting. Building a lifestyle of family discipleship takes time and practice, but every small step matters.

- Don't expect kids to sit through a 30-minute Bible study at first.
- Begin with prayer.
- Choose a book of the Bible.
- Start small—read just 2 verses together.
- The next week, try 3 verses, or stay at 2 until the habit grows.

Over time, these simple, consistent moments will develop into a lifelong rhythm of studying God's Word together.

👉 Discipleship doesn't begin with perfection—it begins with presence.

Jesus Is Present in Everyday Life

Discipling your children doesn't only happen during "Bible time." It happens all throughout the day as you point them to Jesus in the ordinary moments of life.

- **Talk constantly about Jesus.** Let Him be a natural part of your conversations (Deuteronomy 11:19).
- **Show them His creation.** Whether it's the sky, trees, or animals, remind them, "God made this!" (Psalm 19:1).
- **Introduce Bible words.** Use words like sin, Trinity, obey, forgive, humility, predestined, the Father, Holy Spirit, flesh vs. spirit, salvation—so they become normal in your home.
- **Apply truth in real time.** When situations come up—fighting, forgiveness, obedience, joy—connect them back to what God's Word says.

👉 By weaving Jesus into daily life, you show your children that faith is not just for Sunday—it's for every moment.

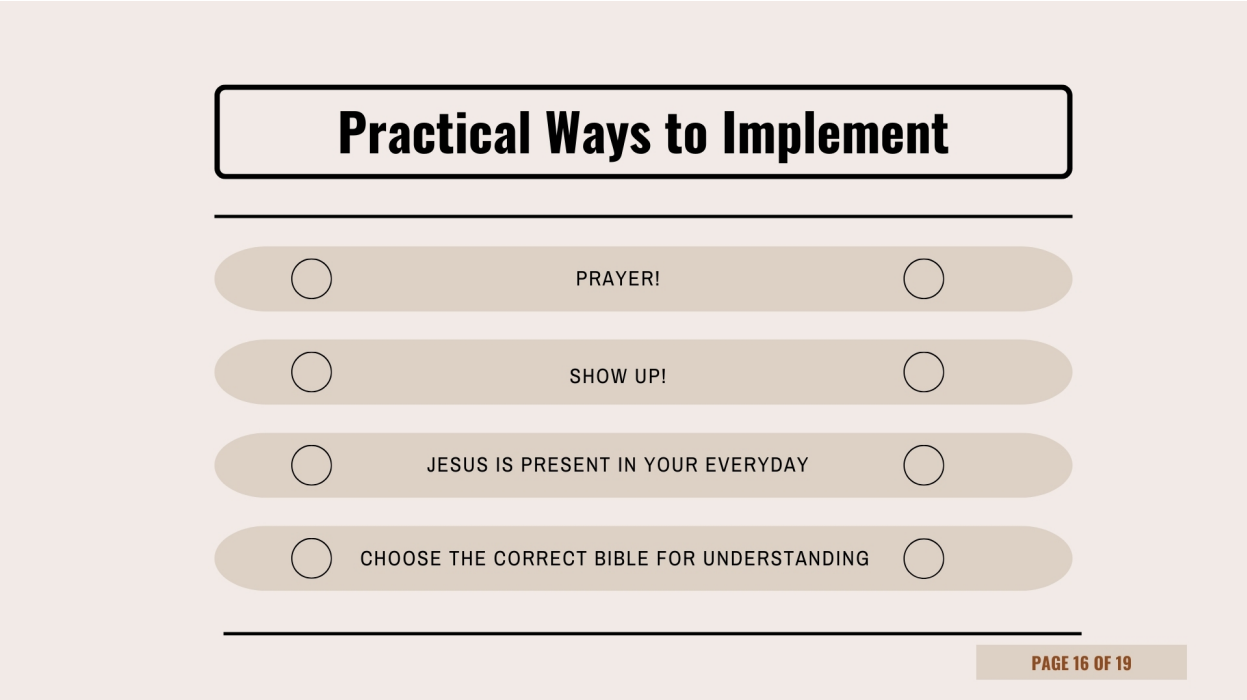
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Choose the Right Bible for Understanding

Having the right Bible translation can make a huge difference in how children (and parents) understand God's Word.

- Start with a solid study Bible for yourself so you can guide with confidence.
- Then, choose a translation that fits your child's reading level:
  - **NASB** – suited for older teens (11th–12th grade comprehension)
  - **ESV** – good for high school readers (9th–10th grade comprehension)
  - **NIV** – ideal for middle school readers (6th–8th grade comprehension)
  - **ICB** – written for younger children at an elementary level
  - **NLT** – we found it helpful when the teaching is rich in doctrine

👉 The goal is not to water down Scripture, but to ensure your children can understand and engage with God's Word at their level.



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Teaching Framework

Tools to Guide Your Teaching

When studying the Bible with children, keep these five guiding principles in mind:

- **Biblically Driven** – Teach the whole story of the Bible, not just scattered verses.
- **God Centered** – Highlight God's character and mighty works throughout Scripture.
- **Christ Exalting** – Show Jesus as the centerpiece of God's redemptive plan.
- **Gospel Saturated** – Reveal how every passage connects to God's plan of salvation—Jesus is on every page.
- **Family Focused** – Bring the whole family together around the same passage each week, growing in unity.

👉 These tools ensure that teaching is not random but intentional—grounded in truth, centered on Christ, and applied to the whole family.



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Conclusion

We live in a sin-ravaged world, but God has given parents and grandparents the greatest ministry of all—discipling the next generation.

This will not always be easy. Some lessons will feel too hard, too boring, or too uncomfortable. But when you pray, persevere, and keep pointing your children to Jesus, you are planting eternal seeds.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Not Just for Children

These principles are not limited to parenting or teaching kids. They are also powerful tools for spiritual discipleship with anyone who is new to the faith.

- New believers, like children, need clear teaching rooted in Scripture.
- They need guidance that is biblically driven, God-centered, Christ-exalting, gospel-saturated, and family-focused.
- Discipleship at every level—whether with children, teens, or adults—requires walking patiently, teaching truth consistently, and pointing always to Christ.

👉 In this way, the same methods that disciple children can also strengthen new believers, reminding us that all discipleship is family discipleship in God's household.

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