



Love & Respect

Part 4 – How to Lead Your Children Spiritually

Discussion Guide

Love & Respect is a series about learning to love God, love people, and love ourselves the way we are taught throughout the Bible. This week, we look at what the Bible says about leading your children—and others—spiritually. Whether you are a parent or not, we all have influence on children, and we leave an impression on their lives.

Jump Start

1. What is your fondest childhood memory?
2. **Read [1 John 5:3](#)**. What does it mean that His commands are not burdensome? In what area of your life are you having the most trouble obeying God? How can we learn to obey Him better?
3. **Read [Deuteronomy 6:5-7](#)**. What values do you want to impress upon your children or others? Do you set the example and live out these values for others to see? What did you think of the concept of making God not just a priority, but centric to your home? What are some values that, as a Life Group, we can hold each other accountable to throughout this next season and beyond?
4. **Read [1 Thessalonians 2:11-12](#)**. Who is Paul talking to? Does this expand your view of who you can influence? Name specific ways we are to encourage others.
5. Final Thought: **Read [Deuteronomy 6:8-9](#)**. When someone walks into your house, what is the word that best describes the tone of your home? What is the message of your family life? How can we begin to create refuge and a home that honors God? Or turn a negative environment into one of peace and joy that points people to God?

Deeper

6. **Read [Genesis 6:9-13, 22](#).** What values differed between Noah and the rest of the people on earth at that time? How was Noah still able to walk so closely with God while everyone around him was corrupted? Today, when you see people walking away from God, when they are trying to pull you down the same path, how will you act and react?

7. There are a few father/son relationships and parables in the Bible, but none as well known as the Prodigal Son. **Read [Luke 15:11-24](#).** After the son ran away with his father's property and began to throw away everything his father had given him, what happened? What should have the son deserved for his desertion and sin? How was that different from how the father acted? How did the father pass on his values to his son? How can we begin to show love and compassion to someone who has disrespected us?

8. **Read [1 Peter 2:17-19](#).** What does Peter mean when he says, "show proper respect to everyone" or "honor everyone"? How are you supposed to show respect to someone who a) you feel hasn't earned it or b) doesn't give the same honor back to you? Why is that so important? Who is one person you need to give more respect to in order to obey God and so that they can better see the love of Jesus through you?