

Master Plan: Instilling Biblical/Moral Values

- A. Get a biblical overview of this process.
 - Three Principles of Child Rearing (Ephesians 6:4)
 - Four Steps to Teaching Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:4-8)
- B. Answer worldview questions (some covered in New City Catechism).
 - **ME Questions:** Why do I matter? Where did I come from? Where should I be going to fulfill my purpose? What is the origin of my sense of right and wrong?
 - **WORLD Questions:** What's wrong with the world? How did it get this way? What's the solution?
- C. Teach Jesus' summary of biblical commandments (covered in NC Cat)
--Love God and love your neighbor.
- D. Teach God's Moral Law: The Ten Commandments (covered in NC Cat).
- E. Practice biblical principles of discipline.
 - Train a child to obey his conscience.
 - Teach the law of sowing and reaping.
 - Teach a child self-control, i.e. to master his desires.
- F. Teach and inspire godly attitudes: Sin and righteousness are not just behavior but attitudes of the heart. Character is a *consistent attitude*. Fruit of the Spirit, Beatitudes, Jame's list of true wisdom. 2 Peter golden virtues.
- G. Help them celebrate God's glorious design of manhood and womanhood differently to complete one another.
- H. Build the life-long discipline of intercessory prayer for our children. Exodus 17:8-13. Ephesians 3:16-19.

-----Pre-Early Teen Years-----

- I. Teach God's glorious design of sex.
- J. Help them know they are perfectly designed for their mission. ***For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*** (Eph 2:10).

- K. Teach them how to cope with peer pressure and to choose friends wisely.
- L. Inspire the pursuit of wisdom. ***When I was a son with my father, he taught me and said to me, the beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you*** (Prov 4:3ff)
- M. Expose them to portraits of Jesus in the gospels to show that he is a leader worthy of their whole-hearted allegiance.

-----Teen Years-----

(Research from *Before You Lose Your Faith*, published by the Gospel Coalition, from *The Anatomy of Deconversion*, by John Marriott, and *Another Gospel*, by Alisa Childers **strongly suggests the final three components of the equipping we must do with our kids before they leave home.**)

- N. Ground them in sound logic, learning to recognize logical fallacies.
- O. Thoroughly teach them the reasons for our faith. (I Pet 3:15 *apologia*).
- P. Equip them to respond to current worldviews with a biblical perspective. In this context be honest about how the failures of the church, for example **at times failing** to oppose racism and injustice as they should have, and often failing to be as generous as Jesus commanded in helping the poor.

(There is strong evidence that children raised in Christian homes are at strong risk of abandoning their faith unless their parents and churches have followed through on these last three steps.)