

My Most Important Gift to My Child

Parents want the best for their children. They work hard and sacrifice a lot to provide them with the things they need.

They also do whatever they can to protect them. They want their children to be healthy, so they teach them to eat balanced meals and to take care of their bodies. They want their children to be able to earn a good living as adults, so they provide them with a good education.

Those things are all important for children. God commands parents to provide food, clothing, shelter, protection, and love.

In the Bible, God underscores the fact that he especially wants parents to teach their children his Word. Deuteronomy 6:5-7 says, *“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

The most important role God gives parents is that they teach his Word to their children. After all, it is the Word alone that tells about Jesus and gives eternal life. We may pass on our good looks to our children. We may give them a good education, which will help them land a good job. We may impart good business sense to them, so their bank accounts grow. We may instill healthy habits so that they take the best possible care of themselves. But what good are all those things if we don't teach them God's Word?

God wants his Word to be a regular part of the conversations in our homes. “Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” At every opportunity, these spiritual conversations are to take place. And think of what that means for your children! As you talk, your children will learn that God's Word is important to you. They will learn that their well-being is not dependent on a stock market that goes up and down but on the rock-solid promise of the almighty God: he will provide for us. Your children will learn how to truly enjoy the many things they have, not because those things are evidence of their own worth but because they come from God. They will recognize that their possessions are given to them to bless their lives and give them a foretaste of the treasures that will be theirs in heaven. They will learn that the way to be rid of the guilt they experience in their lives is not to dull their senses with drugs or distractions but to take their sins to Jesus and have the load completely taken away.

The most important gift you can give your children is a regular conversation focused on God's Word.

For some of us, beginning the conversation isn't easy. But if we think of what Jesus did for us and how that gives us a life filled with hope here on earth—and eternal life in heaven—we will want to give that to our children.

Every week the Sunday school lesson will include one or more activities for you to do with your child. These activities provide an easy way to initiate the spiritual conversation in your home. Do the activities with your children. Begin the conversation. Talk about the lesson. Study the Word yourself. Teach your children at every opportunity you get.

Teaching God's Word to your children is the most important gift you can give.

Closing Prayer Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us your precious Word that tells us how you died for us so that we might live. Help us always remember that hearing and studying your Word are the most important things we can do, because your Word is life for us. Work in our hearts this year so that we all grow in faith, trusting your promises and honoring you in everything we do. We pray in your name, because you alone are our Savior. Amen.