

Hey guys, how's it going? This is....and today, let's talk about

As parents—especially as mothers—it's easy to become swept up in appearances. We want our children to behave, to look polished, to perform well. We imagine that if they're well-groomed, dressed in clean preppy clothes, and excelling in school or sports, we must be doing something right.

But here's the hard truth: **that mindset is a fantasy**. And training up our children in the Lord can't happen while we're living in fantasy.

We can't teach truth while chasing an illusion. When our focus is on crafting a perfect image—children who look good, act right, and impress the world—we become what Scripture warns against: **silly women**, led astray by emotions, appearances, and the world's shallow expectations. The goal isn't to raise impressive children—it's to raise **godly ones**.

And that starts with us.

We must approach parenting with **a sober mind**, grounded in truth, led by the Holy Spirit. We must remember that anything we have—any wisdom, patience, discernment, or strength—we've received from **the Father**, by **the Spirit**. We did not create these things within ourselves, and we certainly can't manufacture them for our children.

Here's the sobering part: **we are not the Holy Spirit** for our children.

No matter how much we desire to, we can't impart salvation to them. We can't regenerate their hearts. We can't make them love righteousness. That work is **holy ground**, and it belongs to **God alone**. What we can do is model a life that is continually being shaped by the Spirit. We can humbly walk our own journey of sanctification and invite our children to witness it—mess and all.

So, let's shift our focus.

Let's stop obsessing over appearances and instead become deeply mindful of our own walk with God. Let's teach truth not from a place of perfection but from a place of submission. And let's remember: the best gift we can give our children is not a polished childhood, but a **faithful parent** who walks daily in dependence on the Spirit, pointing them to the only One who saves.

Let's raise our children **not to impress the world**, but to **know and love God**.

As a parent and a Christian homeschooler, I've come to realize something important—something I wish I had grasped sooner. Early in our homeschooling journey, I did what many of us do: I started with **rote memorization** of Scripture. It felt like the right thing to do. Memorizing Bible verses is a common and respected approach in Christian education, and I believed it would plant seeds of truth in my daughter's heart.

But I quickly saw her struggle. Memorizing verses didn't come easily to her. And as I watched her wrestle with the process, I began to reflect on my own experiences with Scripture. I realized that the verses I had committed to memory were largely focused on **God's promises to me**—the blessings, the rewards, the reassurances. They were good, yes, but they were also incomplete.

That realization changed everything.

I don't want my daughter to grow up thinking of God as some kind of **heavenly grandfather**, kind and generous, handing out blessings simply because she asks. That image is shallow and doesn't reflect the full truth of who God is. What I really want for her is to **know God deeply**—to know His **character**, His **holiness**, His **justice**, His **mercy**, and His **sovereignty**. That kind of understanding doesn't come through memorized promises alone.

It comes through reading the **actual Bible**.

Not just paraphrased children's Bibles or simplified summaries, but the real Word of God. Even if it takes longer. Even if it's more challenging. Because the goal isn't just head knowledge—it's heart transformation.

So if you're a parent walking this same path, let me encourage you: don't be discouraged if your child struggles with memorization. Don't feel like you're failing if they don't remember every verse word for word. Instead, focus on exposing them to **the fullness of Scripture**. Let them see God as He truly is by reading His Word with them—bit by bit, truth by truth.

Memorization has its place, but **relationship with God** is the goal.

Let's help our children not just know about God—but **know Him**.

After feeling a bit overwhelmed, I decided to try using those character study books designed for kids—the ones that focus on teaching values like being a good friend, choosing joy, and standing out at school. On the surface, they seem helpful. But the truth is, they often fall short of what our kids really need.

Think about it: even as adults, many of us find it difficult to share our faith. So expecting a third grader or a seventh grader to carry out a “witnessing ministry” at recess might be asking too much. What these books are often teaching is basic morality—good behavior, not spiritual transformation. And while those lessons have value, we have to remember that the fruit of the Spirit—things like love, joy, peace, and self-control—aren’t things our kids can just “apply” in a classroom setting because it’s part of an assignment, or because Mom is watching.

True spiritual growth comes from a relationship with Christ, not from checklists or school lessons. As parents, we need to be mindful not to substitute character training for heart transformation. Our kids need the gospel, not just good behavior.

At the end of the day, I settled on one simple but powerful motivation: **love**.

I love my daughter deeply—and because I love her, I want her to know the One I love most: **the Lord**. That’s what led me to start taking her alongside me as I read the Bible—not as a formal lesson, not as a performance, but as a habit of life. I didn’t demand that she grasp every theological point or profound truth. What mattered most was that she began to **build the habit** of being in the Word and fellowshiping with someone who genuinely believes it.

I remember the first time we read through the book of Jonah together. She was stunned—**truly stunned**—to see the difference between the actual Word of God and the watered-down version she had heard at Vacation Bible School. It opened a door.

That moment gave me the opportunity to gently point out something many parents overlook: **most church programs for children, while well-intentioned, are limited**. They often don’t have the time or structure to dive deeply into the **real text** or the **full meaning** of Scripture. What our kids receive in those settings is often incomplete. That realization lit a fire in her. She talked about Jonah for months afterward. She began to hunger for wisdom, to search out what else she hadn’t been told, and to **long for the real thing**.

And as her mother, I was **eager to fan that flame**—not with entertainment or shallow lessons, but with **truth**. I watched her heart begin to treasure God’s Word—not as a

duty, but as a delight. That is one of the most beautiful things you can witness in your child: the **birth of a genuine desire for truth**.

But let me be honest—it all starts with **us**.

This kind of transformation in our children requires a mother who is **born again**, who is **walking in daily sanctification**, and who is committed to **glorifying God in everything**, especially in the way she teaches and discipless her children. We're not just passing along information—we're helping shape souls. That means we must instill in them a proper, reverent **fear of the Lord**, not just intellectual knowledge or moral behavior.

And even when we don't see immediate fruit—even when their hearts seem slow to respond—we must remain faithful. Why? Because God is faithful. And **He rewards faithfulness**.

So, to every parent striving to teach your children the truth: **Keep going. Keep reading the Word. Keep pointing them to Christ**. Trust the Lord to do what only He can do in their hearts. Your job is not to be perfect—it's to be faithful. And God will honor that.

Let's raise children who know the Word, love the truth, and fear the Lord—not by force, but by walking with them in love, rooted in the gospel.

That's it for today...