



Godly Parenting | Session #9

Leading Your Child to Christ

Prep: Read Chapter 9

Group Kick-Off (start with any or all of these)

Break the Ice:

- Share one of the funniest things you've ever seen happen in a church service.
- What is one takeaway that you highlighted or that stood out to you in this chapter?

Set the Stage: (Review from Session #8):

Reaching your child's heart requires balance. A godly parent must learn how to properly balance rules & relationship and truth & grace. This is most seen exemplified in our lives rather than through our words. As one person once wisely said, "If a person's words and actions don't agree, always believe their actions."

Key Verse:

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. -2 Timothy 3:15

BIG IDEA:

A parent's greatest responsibility and primary goal is to lead their child into a lifelong relationship with Jesus and an eternity in heaven.

Identifying your goal:

If the goal of leading our children to Christ is just getting them to pray a prayer in a moment, then we may have missed the mark of what we've been called to do. But if our goal is leading them into a lifelong relationship with Jesus (that may begin with that moment of prayer), there is much more hope and promise for their future. As Christian parents, we are striving to raise children who will become fully devoted followers of Jesus for a lifetime, not just "golden-ticket holders" who have a pass into heaven. This does not happen by accident.

Religious Profession or Personal Relationship?

How would you answer the question at the top of page 204 in the book?... "In your home, is there an emphasis on a personal relationship with God?"

- What are some practical daily ways our kids should see our family’s life as being different from other’s because of our personal relationship with Jesus? (refer back to page 204 for ideas if necessary)

If your children were to rate your own personal relationship with Jesus by the following scale, which would be most accurate?

1. My parents do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.
2. My parents say that they are following Jesus, but their actions often fail to match their words.
3. My parents are Christians who do a good job of looking the part on Sundays.
4. My parents are genuine followers of Christ who struggle yet strive to live like Jesus.
5. My parents are genuine followers of Christ whose life demonstrates that they walk in the Spirit daily and seek to live out the Gospel in their daily lives?

While we can’t force faith into our children’s hearts, we can make faith look good, and real, and desirable through our lives and examples.

- What are some things in our lives that can make our faith look authentic and appealing to our children?
- How can a false faith, or a parent who fails to represent faith well, have a negative impact on a child’s view of, or relationship with, God?
- Aside from your example, one of the most powerful tools you have to help your children come to personal faith is your own testimony of how God saved you. Do your kids know your salvation story? Have you shared it with them in detail? If not, why not do it this week?

Requirements for Salvation

Any person is saved by believing the Gospel—trusting in Jesus alone for salvation. But how does that come about? There are three things that must be in place:

- Understanding (I am a sinner in need of a Savior.)
- Conviction (Jesus died for MY sin.)
- Repentance (A change of mind towards sin that results in a change of heart towards God.)
- Which of these three often comes the easiest and quickest for children?
- What is the danger in leading a child to pray a prayer of salvation if they only have an understanding of the Gospel, but not a personal conviction of sin?
- What are some steps we can take to prevent false professions of faith in our children

“Salvation is not simply getting a child to pray a prayer. However, salvation is an inward transformation of the heart that can be expressed through a prayer.”

- Read I Corinthians 3:6. God alone can save anyone. The fruit of salvation cannot be forced or manufactured. How should the principle of this verse apply to our approach in leading our children to Christ?
- How can parents better encourage a lifetime of choosing to follow Jesus over focusing on just a moment of salvation alone?

Helpful Tip:

If your child has an understanding of the Gospel, but you're unsure whether or not the child is under conviction and ready to be saved, use this question, "When do you want to do that?" Their answer to this question will help you gauge whether or not their growing understanding has turned into an increasing urgency about their own need to be saved.

Which "Helpful How-to Heart Hack" on page 217 is the best practical takeaway for you from this chapter?

As time allows, finish by discussing any "Heart of the Matter" questions on page 217-218.

EXTRA NOTES:
