



Seasons

of Christian Parenting

Wisdomfest
2023

That beautiful baby you are holding in your arms ... is a **worshiper**.

Big Idea #1

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We parent from the very beginning with the **end** in mind.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and **how from childhood** (from infancy) you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**”

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Two major dynamics in play during a child's first five years:

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1. **Brain** development

“In the first five years of life, positive experiences and warm, responsive relationships stimulate children’s development, creating millions of connections in their brains.

“In fact, children’s brains develop connections faster in the first five years than at any other time in their lives. This is the time when the foundations for learning, health and behaviour throughout life are laid down.”

children.net.au

“Data compiled by the Rauch Foundation found that 85 percent of a person’s brain is developed when they are five years old!”

all4kids.org



Two major dynamics in play during a child's first five years:

1. Brain development
2. **Boundary** testing



Big Idea #2

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We parent with the **Scriptures** as our foundation.

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Two major thoughts to consistently teach our children:

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1. An **awareness** of God and his **plan** of salvation

Creation (Where did all of this begin?)

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Fall (What went wrong?)

Creation (Where did all of this begin?)



Fall (What went wrong?)



Redemption (How is it all going to be made right?)

Creation (Where did all of this begin?)



Fall (What went wrong?)



Redemption (How is it all going to be made right?)



Restoration (Where is it all heading?)

Two major thoughts to consistently teach our children:

1. An awareness of God and his plan of salvation

Two major thoughts to consistently teach our children:

1. An awareness of God and his plan of salvation
2. A **submission** to God and his **authority**

- Lovingly and patiently **teach** them truth.

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- Lovingly and patiently **reprove** them when they go astray from the truth.

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- Lovingly and patiently **correct** them back onto the right path.

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- Lovingly and patiently **reprove** them when they go astray from the truth.
- Lovingly and patiently **correct** them back onto the right path.
- Lovingly and patiently **train** them over and over again in righteousness.

“God places loving authority in the hands of parents. It is a responsibility to lead, oversee, and direct a home in a wise, godly manner.

“Loving authority is trustworthy; acting on behalf of those it governs and does what is right.

“It is judicious and benevolent and understands the need to direct, and instruct, and establish rules.

“It models Christ-like influence and points children to a God they can trust and follow.”

Julie Lowe

“This means that every time you exercise authority in the lives of your children, it must be a beautiful picture of the authority of God.

“In the lives of your children, you are the look of God’s face, you are the touch of his hand, and you are the tone of his voice.

“You must never exercise authority in an angry, impatient way. You must never exercise authority in an abusive way. You must never exercise authority in a selfish way.

“Why? Because you have been put into your position as parent to display before your children how beautiful, wise, patient, guiding, protective, rescuing, and forgiving God’s authority is.”

Paul David Tripp

For Infants (birth to 24 months)

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- Be nurturing and **available**.

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- Plant **seeds** of faith.

For Toddlers (2-3)

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- Cultivate **joy** in learning new things.

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- Cultivate joy in learning new things.
- Root their **identity** in the gospel story.

For Pre-schoolers (4-5)

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- Be **clear** and **consistent** with the rules you have established for them.

For Pre-schoolers (4-5)

- Be clear and consistent with the rules you have established for them.
- Appeal to their developing **conscience**.