

A Parent's Highest Calling

Covering Your Children in Prayer and the Word

by Pastor George Pearsons

Proverbs 22:6 tells us to, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. *The Passion Translation* says, “Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way they should go, and the values they’ve learned from you will be with them for life.”

According to this scripture, our parental responsibility is clear. We are to train up our children by pointing them in the right direction. As a result, the godly values we teach will stay with them all their lives.

What are the most important values that can be taught? These are the principles we find in the Word of God. The highest responsibility parents have is to cover and immerse their children with prayer and the Word of God. Pray over them every day in faith (*remember Job offered prayers and sacrifices in fear every day!*), speak the Word over them, and teach them the Word.

While we cannot hide our children away from the world, we can be proactive in guarding them. We can shield them in far greater ways than wrapping them in a plastic bubble or locking them in their rooms for the rest of their lives. You and I can pray. We can intercede for our children, praying for wisdom, protection, peace and strength.

—Heather Riggelman

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NKJV) is a parents’ job description:

Therefore you [parents,] shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. *You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.* And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

This is a powerful quote from the book *Prayers That Prevail for Your Children: A Parent's and Grandparent's Manual of Prayers* by Richards and Hildebrand:

Praying for our children is a primary parental responsibility. More profoundly, it is a ministry of eternal proportions. Through prayer, we make an investment in the lives of our children that will pay rich dividends in their futures, in the lives of their children and beyond. By blending their faith with the Word of God as they lift their children up in prayer, Christian parents discover what God wants them to do and How He wants them to do it.

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Scriptural Prayers and Confessions

Hebrews 4:12 (*NLT*) says, “The word of God is alive and powerful.” The Word of God that we speak and pray over our children produces tremendous results (James 5:16, *AMPC*). The following are scriptural confessions you can speak and pray over your children.

Psalms 112:1-2, NLT: Praise the LORD! My children are joyful and they fear the LORD. They delight in obeying His commands. My children will be successful everywhere. They are godly children, and they are blessed.

Isaiah 49:25, NLT: The LORD fights those who try to fight my children. He said He will save my children.

Isaiah 54:13, AMPC: My children shall be disciples taught by the Lord and obedient to His will. Great shall be their peace and undisturbed composure.

Isaiah 11:2-3, AMPC: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon my children—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord. The Lord shall make them of quick understanding. Their delight shall be in the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 50:4-5, AMPC: The Lord God has given my children the tongue of a disciple, and of one who is taught. They know how to speak a word in season to those who are weary. The Lord awakens my children every morning, waking up their ears to hear as a disciple, as one who is taught. The Lord God has opened their ears. They will not be rebellious or turn backward.

Isaiah 44:3-5, NLT: The LORD pours out His Spirit and His blessing on my children. They will thrive like watered grass and like willows on a riverbank. My children will proudly claim, “I belong to the LORD.” My children will say, “I am a descendant of Jacob.” My children will write the LORD’s name on their hands, and will take the name of Israel as their own.

Daniel 1:4, 8, 18-20, NLT: My children are well versed in every branch of learning. They are gifted with knowledge and good judgment. They are suited to serve in the royal palace. My children are highly trained in language and literature. They will not defile themselves. My children have an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. My children are ten times more capable in learning and wisdom.

Luke 2:40, AMPC: My children are growing and becoming strong in spirit, filled with wisdom. The grace, favor and spiritual blessing of God is upon them.

Luke 2:52, AMPC: My children are increasing in wisdom, and in broad and full understanding. They are increasing in stature, years, and in favor with God and man.

John 14:26, NLT: The Holy Spirit will teach my children everything, and will remind them of everything they have been told.

Luke 4:18-19, NKJV: The Spirit of the LORD is upon my children, because He has anointed them to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent them to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. He has sent them to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD—the year of jubilee—their debt is released.

Philippians 1:6, AMPC: I am convinced and sure that He who began a good work in my children will continue until the day of Jesus Christ—right up to the time of His return. He will develop that good work, and perfect it, bringing it to full completion in Him.

2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV: God has not given my children a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Psalms 91:1-2, AMPC: My children dwell in the secret place of the Most High. They remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty, whose power no foe can withstand. I will say of the Lord, He is their Refuge and their Fortress and their God. I confidently trust that they will rely and lean on Him. (*Confess the entire Psalm!*)

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A Prayer to Pray Before School

by Heather Riggleman, based on Ephesians 6:10-18

In the Name of Jesus, I ask for Your Spirit to rest upon my children today. As I send them out into the world, I believe they are fully equipped with ready feet for peace, the belt of truth firmly worn, with the breastplate of righteousness to help them do the right thing in Your eyes. I ask for my children to be firmly protected in their armor with the shield of faith. Thank you for warding off their enemies and flaming arrows. They have faith in You. I pray for a hedge of protection around my children as they engage in the world. Let your presence guide them and Your warrior angels fight for them. I pray that when my children open their mouths, they will boldly and fearlessly proclaim the mystery of the gospel. They will be protected by Your armor as they witness for You.

A Prayer Over Your Child's Room and Belongings

by Heather Riggleman

Lord, I dedicate my children's rooms to you. Let their rooms be places where Your presence dwells. I pray as they slumber in their beds, You will watch over them and protect their minds as they dream. I dedicate their toys and belongings to You. Let them be a reminder of how You provide and teach us not to be selfish. I pray over their closets. Thank You for their clothes. As they dress every day, turn their thoughts toward how they glorify You in all that they do—including how they dress. I invite the Holy Spirit to dwell in this room. In the Name of Jesus, I cast out any darkness that would try to take up residence there. I cast out depression, anxiety, doubt, anger, rebelliousness and ask that Your light dwells there. I demand that nothing comes into their rooms that is contrary to Your Word, in Jesus' Name.

A Prayer for Your Children to Have Encounters With God

by Lynne Hammond

Lord, I pray for my children. This is a pivotal time in their lives, and I pray that my children will have encounters with You. That they will come face-to-face with You. Lord, thank You for making Yourself known to them. And nothing will stop the vertical aspect of their relationship with You.

I pray for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and university and college campuses. I pray for a divine hunger for the things of God. Make the arrangements, Lord. Get angels on their course. Let there be divine interventions. Meet them in the way they need to be met. Cause them to rise up into a revolution of our youth and children coming to the Lord.

I pray for those personal encounters. Call them by their name. You know all of their names. Let them have conversations with You.

I plead the blood of Jesus over all my children. Open to them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, so that they walk upright into the glory. I pray strength into them. Open their eyes that they might see. Open their ears that they might hear. And open their hearts that they might receive.