

Ten Top Tips To Train Tots

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

*Dedicated to my parents who taught me about being a parent,
and my children who taught me about being a child.*

All scripture quotations taken from the King James Version.

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To Train Up A Child

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Chapter 1

Introduction

To train up a child is absolutely the most important activity that parents can undertake. Nothing should be more important to parents than raising their children properly. Anything else that gets in the way of proper parenting is not worth your time and effort if your children are not being trained properly.

The Need

Your children need you to train them. They will learn without you, but it won't be to their benefit. They will continue growing up, yet not satisfactorily unless you have a hand in the process. Yes, you must work to make ends meet, but your work should not cause you to neglect your children. You must be involved in your local church, but again not at the expense of your child's upbringing. There is absolutely nothing more important than raising your children properly.

There is absolutely nothing more important than raising your children properly.

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Perhaps it is our efforts to harmonize with society that causes Christians to neglect this basic duty. Perhaps it is because we ourselves were not trained, that we do not train our children. Most parents appear satisfied with just hoping that their children turn out okay and that they will learn what they need to succeed in a strong Christian life. The alternative is to take the divine initiative to train them in God's ways, strengthening the next and all subsequent generations as this knowledge is passed along.

Training is not to be equated with or limited to discipline. It is necessary to discipline or punish at times, but training is much more. To train a child takes forethought. It requires proactive parenting, not reactive. It takes patience and planning, and most of all it takes consistency and persistence.

Are you ready for the challenge? Do you want to deliberately raise your children in a manner that is pleasing to God? Or, do you want to just wait and see what happens? Are you concerned with how they will turn out? Or, are you just waiting for the day that they will be moving out? Do you wish to see them living Godly lives? Or, do you hope that some one else will teach them of God's love?

Society is watching. Your children are watching. Your family is watching. Your church is watching. Most importantly, God is watching. Let us please Him in all that we do.

So what are the right ways? What can I do to ensure

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that I am training them correctly? How do I change my methods? These questions and more are discussed in this book. You will need to think. You will need to plan. But you can do it. You can train up your children in the way God would have you train them, and actually enjoy the process at the same time. Training children is not a punishment given to parents, but a God given pleasure and opportunity to shape the next generation.

God bless you as you read these pages, learn the concepts, and implement them in your family.

Training children is not a punishment given to parents, but a God given pleasure and opportunity to shape the next generation.

Chapter 2

The Promise

Proverbs 22:6 states that if you train up a child in the way he should go, he will not depart from that way. This is so true. In fact, no matter how you train up a child, he will not depart from that way. So, if you want your child to be an honest and worthwhile citizen, train the child in that manner. If you want your children to be greedy criminals that will take from the innocent to feed their own lusts, then train them that way. Yes, many people do train their children unknowingly to that kind of life. It is not planned, but it is training. Every day you are training your children whether you like it or not. Why not do it the right way?

Why do I believe this promise that a properly trained child will not wander? First of all, God said it was so. Really that should be good enough for anyone. God wouldn't lie, especially in writing!

Second, if the child has been trained properly, part of that training is the endurance necessary to overcome all future evils. Thus, properly trained children know how to avoid and overcome temptations that will befall them. And the temptations will come. No one can expect an easy life unless they give in to all temptation. If you or your child is

to stand against temptation, you must be prepared for it. As a parent, you must prepare your children also. No one said it was going to be easy, but it will be worthwhile.

Third, the law of habit will cause the child to continue walking in the paths that were established early. Whether good or bad, humans will tend to continue doing those things which they already are doing. It is very difficult to break either good or bad habits. If you create a habit of doing good in your children, they will most likely continue to do good all their lives.

*God
wouldn't lie,
especially in
writing!*

It has been said that the best time to start training your child is no later than one year before the child's first birthday. Too many people wait until they believe the child will understand what is right and wrong before training. Too late! If you teach the children from birth, they will grow up not only understanding it, but accepting it as a way of life. Not rebelling and holding on to their relatively old and familiar ways of doing things.

Thus when your children are taught the right way of doing things, and grounded in the truth of God, they cannot help but do what is right as they get older.

Chapter 3

Set Goals

To train up a child takes forethought. This book is written to help you as a parent teach your children. To do this you need to set your training goals, and stick to them. As you read, you will discover that there is not necessarily just one correct method to train your child, just as there is not only one type of child.

Each child is unique, and so are you. Your method must take this into consideration. Therefore, before you establish your training plans, you must analyse your child's nature, and your own personality. Some children can be influenced the most by example. Others will need a stricter discipline to achieve the same results.

The following five steps are essential to the process of setting goals. Please ensure that you complete each step before going on to the next one.

*The child is walking
in the path you
have prepared.
Change the path,
and the child will
learn to walk in the
new path.*

State the Main Goal

Step number one is easy. Make the statement out loud right now that you *want* to train up your child. Say it clearly and certainly ... "I *want* to train up my child!" There that wasn't so hard was it. Take ownership of that sentence. Repeat it enough times that you can say it honestly and easily. Realize that everything you do should revolve around training your children. Plan your life around doing what is best for them. Don't neglect this divine duty. The idea is to make that statement part of your everyday life.

That's all for step one.

Write the Goal

Step number two is just as easy. Get a pen and a piece of paper. Now write down "I *want* to train up my child!" That was not so hard either, was it. If you are still having difficulty claiming that line for yourself, you should write it

*By training a child to be
good, you are helping to
make the world a better
place. A good child that is
well educated, will use that
education for good.*

down a few times on the same sheet of paper. It is important that you do not proceed until you have accepted this statement as truth. This is truly the most important part of the

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process even if it is easy to do. You must establish this desire strongly within yourself. Once this is complete, you can proceed with setting the goals you have for your child.

Now the goals that I am advocating are not career aspirations, nor are they concrete in nature. For instance, my child training is not focussed on how high one can jump. Nor is it based on how well the child can do his or her math. I do set those goals also and you should too. However, these goals are not what this book is about. Real child training is an all-out effort to ensure the children have such abstract goals as perseverance, obedience, trust, and love. These are the goals that must be taught to the child if he or she is going to succeed in this world. Athletics and education can be taught to any one, but they will not make a better person out of someone who is evil, wicked and offensive. They will only make the person more capable of evil, wickedness and offense. By training a child to be good, you are helping to make the world a better place. A good child that is well educated, will use that education for good.

Determine the Goals

Step number three is a little more difficult. You need to determine what you wish to teach your children. This part will be different for each and every family. Some of the goals I have set for my children are as follows:

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- ✓ respect for God and the church
- ✓ demonstrate a respect for their elders
- ✓ devotion to and cooperation with family members
- ✓ helping those in need
- ✓ cheerfully submissive heart to proper authority
- ✓ instant obedience to my commands
- ✓ politeness

These goals must be well thought out. They must be goals to which you can commit yourself and your entire family. In which way do you wish your children to act? You cannot force them to act that way in any given moment, but if they are well trained, they will out of habit and obedience act in that manner.

One method that will help you to decide your goals would be to list the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, gentleness,
goodness, faith, meekness,
temperance: against such
there is no law.”
- Galatians 5:22-23*

Take these fruit and think of ideas for each one. For instance, joy could suggest that your child should be joyful always, even when she doesn't like cleaning her room.

Plan to Train

Step number four is the planning section. How will you teach your child. You may need to read the rest of this

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book to make some of those choices, or if you make them now, you may find that you will adjust them as you continue to read these pages.

This step involves forethought. Here is an example of how I would plan to teach my children one of my goals. I might set a goal that my children will respect their environment and be polite when we are at another person's house. A logical requirement to this goal would be that they eat everything that is set on their plate at dinner time so as not to waste or be impolite. How will I get them to do this? It will never come from allowing them to whine their way out of eating, or fool around until it's cold. Remember also that you will never be able to enforce this while you are out visiting others if you don't enforce it at home first.

So, how do you do it? At home, I will put the food on my children's plate, and tell them to eat it. If they complain that they don't like it, there is one more spoonful added. It doesn't have to be a big spoonful, just enough to make the point. They soon understand that complaining will not benefit them, so they stop the complaints. Test 1 - you win.

When the food is cold, and dinner is done, their left-over food is put into the fridge to await the next meal. Usually at the next meal, I would arrange to have something that they would like to have. When they are finished their leftovers, they can have whatever is left of the desired meal. Test 2 - you win.

The child has now eaten the food that he didn't want.

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He may have gotten a little hungry, but it won't harm him. I know of one child that had the same food, a little at a time for four straight meals. That test does not occur any more. It may need to happen a few times for this goal to be achieved. However, once they have learned this lesson, it is wonderful to know that no matter what they are served, the children will eat it without a single complaint. You win.

Does that mean that they will never challenge the rule again? No, but when they do, it is time for a refresher course. Anyone who has a first aid certificate needs to get a refresher once in awhile to stay current. So do your children. Just be consistent or the child will learn to hold out until you give in. Child wins.

Assess the Results

Step number five is the final step. You need to evaluate the goals you have established and constantly assess how well you are training your child toward those goals. Your goals can not be set in stone when you are parenting. You must constantly monitor your children. See how they are acting, reacting, and responding to others. Do you see something that needs to be corrected? Then train them. Don't punish them because they are not trained, instead take the time to go back to step three and four. Reassess their needs, set your goals, and implement your training sessions. If you plan your steps wisely, you will reap great

success in your endeavours.

Try to always keep the big picture in mind as you do this. It is too easy to get caught up trying to solve one little problem or issue, and never see the root cause of the problem. Once you solve the root cause, the other little issues will disappear.

For instance, a child may struggle to stay up a night. A normal, obedient, fun loving child may become rather disobedient when sent to bed. Trying to solve this issue by discipline may seem to have no results. It may be that the child spends a lot of time with the television, may have nightmares, and not wish to go to bed. To you, the issue is one of obedience, but undoubtedly it is not. You are responsible. As a parent you have brought fear into the child's life through unnecessary evil societal influences. You need to teach the child to overcome that fear, not discipline him. If you were to discipline anyone, it should be yourself for allowing the child to become afraid in the first place.

The child is walking in the path you have prepared. Change the path, and the child will learn to walk in the new path.

Chapter 4

Consistent Honesty

To train up a child takes consistent honesty. Why do I group these two words together? Because most parents are dishonest with their children some of the time without even realizing it. Complete honesty is absolutely essential.

Dishonesty

There is nothing worse than finding out that someone has lied to you, yet many parents do lie to their children all too often. Are you always honest with your children? Before you answer that question, think about these questions: Do you threaten to discipline them, and then not do it? What about Santa Claus, the tooth fairy, and the Easter bunny? Can your children believe every word you say? Should your children believe every word you say? They may believe you now, but after the truth is revealed will they believe anything you say at all. Why should they? Are you always honest with your children?

*Are you always
honest with your
children?*

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You must realize that everything you do, everything you say, and everything you think will affect your children. They are watching you, listening to you and learning from you. If you portray the right example, and teach the right way, they will learn the right things. Your credibility is at stake. Make the commitment now to always and only tell the truth to your children.

When you tell your children to do something, and they delay or decide not to do it, you must be consistently honest with them. You must discipline this lack of obedience. Delayed obedience is only a test of your resolve, and must be dealt with in a similar manner. Why? Your children deserve to know that you can be trusted; that you will follow-through. If you don't discipline, your children begin to learn that your words are not always true. You didn't really want them to do that, or you would have ensured that they did. Your word becomes ineffectual.

You deserve to be trusted, but only if you are consistently honest. Only if you are truthful with your children can you expect them to be truthful with you.

Of course, this goes beyond telling lies to your children. They are watching all that you do. If they hear you lying to a neighbour, keeping that extra change that the cashier at the corner store mistakenly gave you, or doing any manner of dishonest activities, they will learn that it is okay to be dishonest, especially when the other person doesn't know. Then it will only be a short time until they learn to lie to you

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when they believe that they can get away with it.

One of my goals is to have honest children. This is an absolute necessity for me. My children will not be disciplined more severely for anything than dishonesty.

*Can your children
believe every word
you say?*

Thus, I must also hold that high standard for myself. I have many times returned to a store to return an overpayment. Even when my children were not present, I have done this. Why? I wish to make consistent honesty a habit in my life. I do not wish to even have to "think about it". If I do it always, I will never question myself about whether I should or not. It becomes a much simpler matter to do right.

Your children are learning. They have a high regard for their parents. How Mommy and Daddy act, is how they will act too.

Chapter 5

Build Relationships

You need to build strong relationships to train up a child properly. Your children need to see that you enjoy being with them, and that you enjoy doing things with them if you are to be successful in teaching them.

Be Fun

There are times you need to get into the sandbox and just play for awhile. You need to experiment with their toys. You need to dream up new ways of playing with the toys and teach the children. Expand their imaginations. Encourage them to expand yours. Take the time to enjoy their world.

Take them places: to the park, to the museum, to the mall. Learn what they like, and show them what you like. Don't let life get in the way of playing with your children.

It will be much easier to get cooperation from your children when they enjoy being with you.

Why is this important? You are building a relationship with them that is beyond parent-child. You are showing

them that being with you can be fun. You are not the evil task master but a human being that enjoys life.

What will this do? It will allow you to discuss your concerns with them. ("I see you have been having trouble with math at school.") They would rather hear this in a fun environment from a friend, than standing in front of a glowering parent who has to set a newspaper aside or turn off the television to talk to them.

It will open up avenues to discuss issues that concern them. ("Dad, this boy at school is mean to me.") Children will talk with you more if they enjoy being with you. The relaxed environment will soothe them, allowing them to open up to you.

Children enjoy having fun. You need to have fun with them. Don't worry about the mess. What is a little tape, paper, and crayons on the floor to strengthen family ties. As I write this, I am wearing a red paper crown that my five year old daughter made for me, tucked in beside my glasses as it does not reach all the way around my head. I am sure it looks fantastic as it continuously slides down my forehead. What a sense of accomplishment for a five year old to make a King out of Daddy!

I could have told her "Not now!", or I could have sent her to another room while I write, but I have learned that my children are also looking to build a relationship with me. Children crave parental affection.

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Be Loving

Building loving relationships with your children is another key tip to train up a child. This is an essential step required to strengthen the bond discussed earlier. You must take the time to show your children that you love them. If they like hugs, give them lots. If they like kisses, do it often. If they don't like either, you will need to learn what they do like. Perhaps a little note from you saying how good a job they did with something. Perhaps a special surprise "just 'cause" once in a while that shows them you care.

If you do this constantly you will be building a strong family relationship that will not be easily broken by an outsider. Their friends at school will not have the allure that they might otherwise have. The relationship you build with your child in this way will stand the storms of outside influences if you make it strong enough. Don't wait for the child to initiate the relationship. The child may not do so thinking that you are too busy; you don't care; or you love another child more.

Only when children have been constantly rejected do they withdraw. If your child seems to care little for spending time with you, you have a long path back. It is not going to be easy, but it will be worthwhile. You need to start building a relationship carefully and persistently. Don't give up. Your child's well being depends on it.

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Always remember that you are not limiting yourself to being just a buddy to your child. The child cannot control the environment. He is in need of a leader. You are still the parent. You must still make the decisions and discipline

your child when necessary.

However, it will be much easier to get cooperation from your children when they enjoy being with you. Think about who you would rather help out. The friendly neighbour whom you know well, or the stranger on the street. Of course, your

friend would be chosen for the reason that you are familiar with this person. You have a desire to assist those you know, and you are willing to help them because you don't want to lose their approval. Children have also learned this. If they feel that you care for them and love them, they will be more likely to want to please you. They will be less likely to disappoint you and more inclined to do what you ask them to do. They will also be less opposed to discipline if it comes from someone whom they know loves them.

The relationship you build with your child in this way will stand the storms of outside influences if you make it strong enough.

Chapter 6

Set High Standards

You must set high standards of morality if you wish to train up a child properly. Everyone has set standards for their children and for themselves, but you should always seek to set yours high. Just as goals are set knowingly or unknowingly, so are standards. If you allow your child to binge eat, or snack between meals, you have set a standard. If you demand instant obedience, you have set a standard. If you allow your child to run free on the streets at all hours of the day and night, you have set a standard.

Raise Your Own Standard

So how do you raise your standard to a higher limit? What is important? I would say that your standards should be no lower than the Bible sets for you. You may not keep them all, but you must try. You must admit when you are wrong, and try again. Don't let the standard fall, even if you do.

The first step in raising the standard for your children is to set the standard for yourself. Raise it to a new level. Your children must see in you someone to whom they can

look up. There must never be any doubt as to your integrity and honesty. Are you trustworthy? Do others see you that way. If you are to teach your children to be like this, you must be like this too. Your children should see a change in your life each time you raise the standard.

If you are going to raise the standard higher for your children, you will first need to work on your own standard and then constantly keep improving it.

Your children must be trained to hold their own word in high esteem.

You may be asking, what is a standard that I can implement? Try patience. Are you as patient as you should be? If not, raise the standard. Determine that you will be more patient. Ask God to help you. Now, instead of honking the horn at the slow car in front of you, or fidgeting in the grocery store lineup, act calm and collected. Make it part of your lifestyle. Raise your standard even higher ... do not get impatient with your children when they are slowly eating their dinner. There that was easy wasn't it? It really is something that you must work at daily. Do not let it fall by the wayside, as it will only be harder later.

Raise Your Child's Standard

Next you will need to set high standards for your children. You set some goals in chapter 1. Did you set

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them high? You should. Why? Because the higher you aim, the higher they shall reach. I expect one hundred percent obedience from my children. Do I get it? No, but we are still working on it. My goal is one hundred percent. If I set it at 75 percent, I would likely get less than fifty percent obedience, which would only lead to frustration on all sides.

Another standard I set for my children is to only allow supervised activity with other children. Children should not be allowed to roam the streets unsupervised. Many of our neighbourhood children do, but ours are not allowed. I am impressed when I see children who know their limits and obey them. To allow my children to play with the neighbours in a supervised environment, we have opened our driveway to the occasional basketball or street hockey game. All children are welcome, but they must behave, watch their language, and not get violent. Some children have left because they could not have their way. They don't enjoy sharing, or helping others. However, for the most part, the time is enjoyable, peaceful, and fun. Most of the children relish the opportunity to play. I have even had some neighbourhood children come to the door and ask if I was *allowed* to come out and play.

Children are very impressionable. They will pick up many bad ideas, actions, and words if left unsupervised.

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When there is no longer an adult to supervise, the game is over, the equipment is stored away, and the children disperse. It is a lot of fun seeing the children interact, and playing with them. However, I would not allow my children to play with these children unsupervised. There are too many things to be concerned about when children are playing alone. As you know, children are very impressionable. They will pick up many bad ideas, actions, and words if left unsupervised. Even with "Christian" children. Even with the pastor's children! You cannot be too careful. So, I have set the standard. My children are not allowed to play unsupervised with any other children.

One family up the street has allowed their children to roam only a few yards away. When watching a hockey game the other day, I could tell they wanted to play, so I invited them. Congratulations to their parents who taught them that they must ask permission. Off they went home to do so. They returned a few minutes later with the desired permission, and proceeded to have a wonderful time. These are the type of children that I want my children to associate with, not the *wanderers* who have no limits.

One other standard that I believe every parent must set for their children is to keep their word. Unfortunately this is sadly lacking, even in many of today's adults. "Unless I sign a contract, it is not binding," some may say. Yet, it should be different. If I said that I would do it, I will not break my word. Many people in today's society will try to find any way

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they can to avoid keeping their word. Most of the time, the issue would be resolved quicker and with less effort by just doing it, rather than trying not to do it.

So, I teach my children that if they say that they will do something, it must be done. If my son says that he will share a toy, he cannot snatch it back. If my daughter agrees to help Mommy make supper, she cannot run and hide. She must give the help that she offered.

I do not force them to agree to anything except direct commands, yet if they have voluntarily offered their services or property, they must follow through with it. All commands must be obeyed out of respect for their parents. Forcing them to keep their word, however, will train them to not give their word lightly. Your children must be trained to hold their own word in high esteem. This will teach them a respect for themselves that is hard to find in today's society.

It should be unnecessary to say that you must keep your word always if you expect them to do so. They must learn that you don't change your mind when you have committed to something. Otherwise they will learn your tricks, and begin to emulate them. They will only be doing what you have trained them to do ... find a way out, so they don't have to do it.

The primary benefit of teaching them to keep their word, is that they will learn to appreciate and trust God's Word. The secondary benefit is that you will be able to trust them to do what they say.

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“Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

*“Train up a child
in the way he
should go: and
when he is old,
he will not
depart from it.”*

- Proverbs 22:6

My children are aware that I expect a lot from them. They are comfortable with this, as it is the way they grew up. They also are aware that I expect a lot from myself, and I work hard to meet those goals. Once again, I cannot expect more from them than I myself am willing to put out.

If you are raising the standard for children that have had lower standards for some time, you will likely find that the child resists. You will need to be persistent and gradual in the process. Don't make too many changes at once. After all, you are working against the law of habit. However, as the child learns that you are serious and will continue to persist, he will accept the changes and likely institute some of his own. Remember, you have to take the responsibility for setting the standard in the first place. It will take some time to change the path that you originally set for your children.

Chapter 7

Learn Together

To train up a child you must learn together. I heartily recommend home schooling your children for many reasons.

Home Schooling

First, it will protect your children from the agenda of the education department. You will be able to ensure that your children's education will be consistent with the moral and spiritual values that you promote in the home.

Second, it will protect your children from the evil influences of the playgrounds. No, your child does not need to socialize with children in the schools. Why do you think that the most influential people in your child's life should be other 8 year olds? Why should your child's view of life be shaped by someone just as naive as him? Does it really make sense? No!

Everyone needs interaction. Would you not choose to interact with those who will help you improve your situation, not hinder your spiritual, moral, mental, and physical

development? Why would you choose less for your children? They should associate with people of all ages,

They should associate with people of all ages, and only those people who are beneficial to their upbringing.

and only those people who are beneficial to their upbringing. All interaction with other children should be in a supervised environment where their actions and their words can be monitored.

How can you expect to properly train your children if you do not know what they are learning elsewhere? And even if you do know, how much growth can you expect when you are constantly undoing the harm caused by inappropriate interaction?

Third, the opportunity to learn together will strengthen your familial ties. You can spend time together looking through books or other materials to understand a topic better. Any time your children ask questions to which you do not know the answer, you should take the opportunity to learn together. Pick up the dictionary or encyclopaedia and begin your research. Follow all the rabbit-trails that your child wants to follow. If he asks a question about Florida, and then wants to learn more about sharks, then dolphins, then whales. Follow along. You can not be going on a better trip than spending time learning together. The end result will be a common topic of interest and knowledge that you can discuss when you are waiting in line somewhere, or just

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hanging around. You may want to refresh your memory at times just to be clear on the topics. Your child will have no trouble remembering the topics discussed.

Safeguard Your Child's Mind

There are some necessary things you must do to make learning productive and safeguard your children's minds. You must preview all books that your children will read. This is necessary to ensure compatibility with your values, to allow you to discuss the issues and topics taught in the books, to increase your awareness of what your child is learning, and just to increase your general knowledge.

You must also refuse to allow incompatible influences in your home. Those items that will either distract from your teaching, or contradict it, must be banned. Remove the television. Don't just turn it off, but actually get rid of it.

If you are to keep your children free from the worldly influences that so easily beset us, you must give them a safe environment in which to learn.

My wife and I have not had a television in our home since we married. Our children have never had a television in their home, and have never asked if we could get one. There are too many other activities around our house that they just would not have time to watch it anyway. I am not

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condemning all television shows, as I am sure there are a few good learning programs available. However, the ungodly, poor influences and just bad programs far outweigh the good that is available. Besides, your children would better spend their time relating to other family members than staring blankly at the television set.

You must also refuse to allow incompatible influences in your home.

Certain books must be banned. Any books that promote disobedience to parents, general nonsense, or any ungodly influence must not be allowed in your home. Any book, newspaper, or radio show that will entice the children, cultivate fear or panic must also be forbidden. Children do not need to know all of the world's problems and concerns. Especially those issues that may make them uneasy or upset.

So without a television, and only specific godly, self-chosen books, you can train you children in the manner you wish. It is hard to clear out the rubbish, but this is a highly important task. If you are to keep your children free from the worldly influences that so easily beset us, you must give them a safe environment in which to learn.

Transform Your House

What are some things can you do to encourage learning

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together? Our family has put learning together as one of its highest priorities. For instance, we have maps of the world and specific countries right on our dining room table. Put a clear plastic cover over it, and you have a unique table cloth. This has encouraged our children to look over the maps daily. Every time they eat they notice places that they had never observed before. Each day you can pick a place on the map and have the children search for it. Teach them about time zones, how the earth rotates causing days and nights, and seasons too (a globe might be better used to explain this). Locate places on the map where world events are happening. Locate the states or provinces, countries and capitals. Don't forget to teach where bodies of water are located, and which direction a river flows. There is a vast amount of information that can be learned with just this one simple change.

So how do visitors like the idea? No, we don't remove the "table cloth" when company comes to our house. Instead we have a wonderful meal discussing world events, and locations of places where we may have been, or may like to go. Our guests become engrossed in it also. I heard one visitor say "I don't know why I am looking at this. I don't even like geography."

Work Together

Another idea is to encourage your family to work at new

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levels of cooperation as they learn. You can pick a topic and have each family member learn something about that topic. Each will have to share their findings with the group. This will foster a team spirit within the family rather than competitiveness. This will encourage the family to work together in other areas of family life also such as doing housework or gardening.

Chapter 8

Demonstrate Persistence

A great deal of persistence is necessary if you wish to train up a child. This means two things.

Follow-Through

First, you must be persistent to obtain the goals you have established. You must look for every opportunity to further those goals, and you must make sure that you are following through with the training. For instance, if you are to train your children to show respect for older people, you will need to watch them as they interact with seniors in your community, your local stores, and at church. You cannot ignore even one infraction. Each time they come into contact with an older person, they must react properly. Otherwise you need to implement some more training.

How can I do this? Well, you could adopt a grandparent in your community that has no local relatives. You could set up visits to the local seniors' home. There are

Be persistent. Do not let any opportunity pass by where you can train your child.

many ways to further your child's interaction with older people. As your children spend more time with the seniors, and see the respect you have for them, the children will begin to develop their own respect and treat them properly. If you notice that this is not happening, perhaps your own attitude needs to be adjusted. Evaluate how you talk to older people. What about when they are not with you? Do you make the senior to be a charity case, or a respected elder with wisdom to impart? How would you like to be treated and spoken of, when you are at that age?

Be persistent. Do not let any opportunity pass by where you can train your child. The more persistent you are, the easier it will be to shape your child's future.

Don't Give In

Second, you can not let the child's persistence overrule your decisions. You must be more persistent than him. For instance, if your child does not wish to take out the garbage, you must ensure that it is done. Don't let him put it off until it is too late. Don't let him neglect the chore. Be sure that it is done, and that it is done correctly.

The attitude of resistance will change as the child repeats the activities and is worn down by your persistence. If *Bobby* is told to clean up his room, and decides to ignore you, you need to be persistent. He may decide to sit in his room for 3 hours and then present to you a half-hearted

effort. You should not settle for sending him back in. No, you should go mess it up again, and then send him in. *Bobby* will need to do it again. After the third or fourth try, *Bobby* will be responding quicker, and more appropriately.

He will be learning that resistance creates more work, not less. The reason that *Bobby* resists is he believes that you will “rescue” him. Someone else will do the job and he won’t have to do as much. Some people work harder at trying to get out of work, than would actually be necessary to do the work. When he learns, and he will learn quickly, that he will have more to do because of his resistance, then he will realize it is futile to resist. In order to do less, he will have to do it properly and quickly.

For instance, one of *Jimmy’s* chores was to take turns vacuuming. His half-hearted efforts were rewarded by a mother that would re-vacuum the left over mess. *Jimmy’s* mother soon realized that she was training her child to find the easy way out.

So, *Jimmy’s* mother changed her strategy. If *Jimmy* did not do a good job, he would do it again. True to His previous training, *Jimmy* wished to avoid work. The easiest way to do this was to do it right the first time. *Jimmy* learned to put forth a thorough effort.

Way to go *Mom!*

Chapter 9

Establish Authority

A proper family authority structure is necessary to train up a child. For their own security, children need to know that there is an authority above them. They need to feel the comfort that someone else is in charge.

You as a parent must train your children that parental authority is not to be challenged. You know that you have the good of your children in mind in all that you do. Your children may not realize this at an early age, yet they will realize that you are in charge if you train them properly.

Things to Avoid

There are several things to be avoided in this matter. First, do not reason with your children, teach them that your word is law. If you reason, you will begin to lose as they get older and wiser. They will see holes in your logic whether they be there or not. They will eventually not accept your reasons. So ... don’t give them reasons. Tell them what you expect, and make sure that you get it.

Second, do not rely on divine bribery to get your way. Do not say “God would be mad at you”, or “God wants you

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to be good”, or some other such line. Again you are placing something else as the final authority. If your child rejects your views, she will not be long in rejecting your authority.

Third, do not undermine the other parent’s authority. If one parent says no, that means no. Running to Mommy to ask what Daddy has prohibited, should result in further consequences. “Can I go to the park today?”, deviously asked twice should result in two days of no park.

The greatest hindrance a mother has to establishing her authority is her lack of submission to her husband.

Things to Do

There are also some *do’s* that will strengthen the children’s appreciation of authority. First, there needs to be an authority structure in the family. God has ordained that a man should be the head of his household. Thus, wives need to demonstrate submission to their husband, for their children to accept the divine order. If the children do not see a submissive wife, they will not be submissive themselves. The greatest hindrance a mother has to establishing her authority is her lack of submission to her husband. This can be through her daily contact with her husband, the things she says, the way she upholds his authority, and the way she acts toward him. Does she talk

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lovingly or critically about him while he is at work? Does she show devotion to him? Does she try to please him? The children are aware of the attitude she has as much as the words she says, and the way she acts. So it is of utmost necessity that the wife treat her husband with respect. Even if he doesn’t deserve it! Otherwise, the children will not continue to give her respect for very long either, whether she deserves it or not.

A father must demonstrate submission to Jesus if he is going to have the respect of both his wife and children. The children will learn the divine order, and they will follow along submitting to their parents. If the father claims Christian values, but doesn’t live by them, the children will not submit to parental authority for long either. They will still call themselves your children, yet they will make their own choices, and resist your will as long as they can – exactly as you have trained them.

Parents, you are setting the example. God has ordained an authority structure that will work if properly obeyed. Why not put it to use God’s way?

It is of utmost necessity that the wife treat her husband with respect. Even if he doesn’t deserve it!

Second, you need to set biblical truths as a higher authority. This is not the same as saying “God would be displeased”. It is showing your children what God expects, and then

demonstrating what that means for their lives. For instance, the ten commandments have many applications, but “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15) can be taught to a child of any age. He can be taught not to take the neighbours toys, flowers, or even dandelions at a very young age. As he gets older, he can learn not to keep that extra change received from the cashier, nor that extra money on the pay cheque for hours that he did not work.

Third, you must begin young. Your child cannot learn too soon. The authority structure of the family must be demonstrated from day one and continue as long as the child is in the family. A changing authority structure will promote anxiety in the child. Children need consistency.

The lack of a proper authority structure in a household will most definitely result in children that go astray.

The lack of a proper authority structure in a household will definitely result in children that go astray. They will not see any need to follow the rules if there is nothing to follow. They will be determined to make it own their own. They will be rebellious within the family, and likely within society. They will accept no one else’s rules. It will be difficult for them to get a job, and even more difficult to keep it.

A proper authority structure will promote peace in the house. It will strengthen family unity and prepare the children for the world ahead.

Chapter 10

Devotions

Parents need to impart to their children a life of faith. As the children need parental authority, they also need divine authority. They must be taught that they were not created to be self-pleasers but God-pleasers.

Fathers, if you wish to train up your children properly, you must lead them to read, understand, and trust the bible. You must pray with and for your children daily. This is important if you are to teach them of the higher power. God Almighty is in charge.

Biblical Truth

Do not ever dispute the bible. It is God’s word. It cannot be wrong, no matter what scientists “know”. If there is even one line of the bible that cannot be trusted, then none of it can be believed. Our entire faith stands or falls on those holy words. You must attend a church where the Bible is not

They must be taught that they were not created to be self-pleasers but God-pleasers.

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doubted nor disputed. No matter what you teach at home, if your child is subjected to biblical disbelief elsewhere, your training becomes much more difficult. It is better to lose some friends, than to have your children disbelieve God's word.

Do spend time reading the bible together. You may protest that you do not understand it. Then study it. Take a short section of the bible such as John chapter 3 verses 1 to 21 and read it. Read it again. Again. Now think about what it means to you. To start you may need to write out your thoughts. Then sit down with your children. It would help if you all had bibles to read. Even the youngest child would feel proud to own her own bible. Read the passage together, and then elaborate from your notes. Your family will learn something. If you uphold the divine authority of scripture, you cannot help but be amazed at what God has revealed in His word. Your enthusiasm will spread to your family.

*God is good,
and He will
always keep
His word!*

Pray Together

Do spend time praying together. Your children will need to hear you pray so that they too can learn. As the children hear you pray for them, they will learn of your love and desire for their well-being. As they hear you cry out in

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desperation for an unsaved loved one, they will learn of your desire for others. As they hear you cry out in need, they will learn of your dependence on God. This will draw your family very close together.

God's Promises

You must also teach the value of believing in God's

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - John 3:16

promises. John 3:16 is a promise that must be believed by all. You need to discover other Biblical promises, and apply them to your life. Teach the children, that when God promises something He will never let you down – provided that you fulfill the conditions of the promise. God is good, and

He will always keep His word! Don't doubt it and don't train your children to doubt God's word either.

Promote Biblical Learning

Here are some other ways to promote biblical learning, and a stronger belief in God. First, you can purchase or create your own maps of the Bible lands. Most bibles have some maps in them. If you and your older children redraw

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the maps in a larger scale and hang them around your house, you will find it easier to understand some of the stories of the Bible.

Some other interesting projects that can be undertaken by older children is to create family trees or time lines of biblical characters. It is interesting to note that Methuselah died the year of the flood. Again this will help keep the stories straight, and understand the time frames of Biblical events.

Memorization

Memorizing Bible verses is another method of increasing Bible knowledge. You can challenge your children to a contest to see who can learn the verses or even whole chapters first. This is one time you should be prepared to lose. It is amazing how quickly children can learn. When the child has learned the verses, have her help you. This will reinforce the verses in her memory, and help you build relationships by doing something fun together.

You can also make up some Bible memory verse songs. If you are not good at making up tunes, then use some old childhood favourites such as "This Old Man". Many advertisers do this to promote their products. Why not promote God's products? You can take a verse and look for a tune that fits, or take a tune and look for a verse

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that fits the tune. As you sing through the song a few times, you will make the necessary adjustments to the music and soon you will have learned a new memory verse. The children will quickly catch on, and start making up their own tunes too.

Another way to strengthen your children's Christian view and desire is to adopt a missionary. You can pray for that missionary daily, write letters to encourage them, and send some money or needed supplies. You can learn more about the country where the missionary is, to understand more about the challenges they face. The missionary will appreciate the support, and the children will learn to appreciate those who have followed God's calling to a foreign field.

Ultimate Goal

The purpose of the devotions is to teach your children a respect for God and the Bible. God-willing this will lead to the ultimate goal, which is the salvation of the child.

Chapter 11

Set Up Training Situations

To train up a child you need to take advantage of all training situations as they occur. However, you do not want to have to train a child to behave while you are in a shopping mall or sitting in church. It is better to pre-train the child rather than wait for a training situation to occur.

Start young. Do not wait for your child to misbehave in public before you start your training. At nine months old my daughter knew to sit down when she was told, and not to touch certain things. I left a box on the floor for several weeks with some tissue wrap sticking out of the top – a curious thing to a nine month old. Every time she touched it, she was stopped with a no, and a tap on the back of the hand. The second day, she only tried once. The third day not at all. I think she touched it again on the fourth or fifth day, but then left it alone after that.

It is better to pre-train the child rather than wait for a training situation to occur.

I was surprised at how quickly she learned to leave it alone considering how young she was. She would even go out of her way to skirt around it. She is developing boundaries in

her life.

Now if she is about to touch something, I say “No, don’t touch.” She will leave it alone.

Do not yell, do not get panicked. Just calmly and clearly say it.

You need to start small and build up. Do not expect your children to sit quietly in church if you have not trained them yet. You can train a child to sit quietly for two minutes and listen to part of a sermon on a tape or during your family devotions. Then you can build up to 4 minutes, and then 10. Eventually your child will be able to sit through an entire sermon better than most adults. It is not difficult. It just takes some training and self-control.

Think of the goals you have set for your children. Now be creative. How can you pre-train a child, and take advantage of the law of habit.

You must be careful to ensure that your pre-training is effective. Do not mis-train a child by aiming for the wrong goals. For instance, if you wish to have a child that respects seniors, do not encourage him to visit the elderly neighbour who always yells at children. You will promote a habit of fear not respect. It will be much harder to break a bad habit then to plan ahead and pre-train correctly the first time.

Chapter 12

Integration

The last topic I wish to discuss in this book is integration. What I mean by this is that you need to integrate your children into the family at an early age. Make them a part of the activities and duties that are required in your household.

Responsibilities

It is important that you assign responsibilities to your children. Perhaps you will need to start with picking up toys. If you have never held your children responsible to do this, you can begin by doing it with them. Get down on the floor and help your 14 month old child put the toys back in the box. Demonstrate to him how the toys should be put in the box. Then, holding his hands help him put some toys in the box. Praise him for a job well done. Every toy that is pulled out by the child should be picked up by the child.

Other chores that can be assigned at various ages are doing dishes, cleaning the house, making the bed, gardening, setting the table for dinner, and vacuuming the house.

Make it easy for them to do the chores. We spent the money to buy a central vacuum system so that the younger children could pull it around the house. The upright vacuum was too big for them to handle when they started vacuuming.

It is important that you assign responsibilities to your children.

Soon after my children started to walk they would take their plastic bowl and juice box to the sink after eating. By starting early, it has become so ingrained in them, they know (and do not complain) that they need to clean the table after meals.

Now I don't advocate being a task master with your children doing all the work. Rather work with them. If they are vacuuming, you move the furniture. Show them your heroic feats of lifting an entire chair by yourself while they vacuum under it. Enjoy working together as a team. They will enjoy the time together, and you will be training them.

Purpose in Life

Why do I emphasize integration? It is because most children who do not help around the house lack a purpose in life. They do not have any responsibilities at home, and thus do not develop an understanding of what it takes to run a home, and how they must contribute to the family.

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There is a definite lack of peace among most teens today. Without a sense of purpose developed through increasing responsibilities, they spend their time looking for other means to fill that void. Worldly pleasures soon take hold. It then becomes difficult for them to accept responsibility in the mundane things of life. This leads to the fights and complaints that you make them work too much.

Instead, begin early. Assign increasingly more difficult tasks, and you will notice that your children will ask for more. Let them try. If a four year old wants to do dishes, let her try. Even if she only washes the plastic ones. Sure, you can do it faster by yourself, but what are you teaching her?

Make an effort to include your children in every household activity. When they leave home and need to fend for themselves, you will have the satisfaction and peace of knowing that they won't starve or be buried under dust bunnies.

*If a four year old
wants to do dishes,
let her try.*

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Chapter 13

Conclusion

You are going to train your children. You do not have any choice. Why not train them the proper way? This book is just a starting point. I hope these ideas will help you get your family on track, make your family life easier and more enjoyable, help you set the goals you need, and allow you to train your children to be upstanding citizens. Our website (www.ToTrainUpaChild.com) has more information, ideas, and some products that may help you as you train up your children.

Raising children is a long journey, but if you have children you are on your way whether you like it or not. Why not take the opportunity to enjoy your children? Spend time with them. Teach them. Help them. Raise them God's way.

May God bless you as you follow His will.

Notes:

About the Author

Daniel Linton is the father and *Daddy* of three children. He has spent many years studying child training techniques and wishes to share this information with others.

His desire is to see all parents equipped to train their children properly – God’s way.

www.ToTrainUpaChild.com is a website that was established to provide information and products for child training.