

Reflection

Education: Strengthening Your Child's Heart to Learn for God

"God wants us to live by faith in Christ, instructed by his Word and guided by his Holy Spirit, not in an immature dependence upon others to tell us how to live. He wants us to live by faith, in mature dependence on Him for the wisdom that he "gives generously to all without finding fault." (James 1:5)

—Sally Clarkson, *Seasons of a Mother's Heart*

In order to educate our children by focusing on the heart, our own hearts also need to be tended to and cultivated.

Read

Spend some time reading the passages.

What do the passages reveal about God, His character, His heart, and His relationship to us?

Reflect

Spend some time reflecting on the passages.

What truth or wisdom is contained in this verse that I need to know and understand?

What does this passage tell me to do or to obey?

How can I apply this truth and understanding personally to my own life?

Assess the condition of your heart. Write out verses that are convicting, inspiring, and affirming. Are there areas where you need to build mental strength? Habits, appetites, creativity, wisdom?

Pray

Spend some time in prayer.

Ask God to search your heart and reveal areas where He wants to work.

Commit

Commit to memorize at least one of the verses as a family.

Commit to take action on at least one thing God showed you through your time with Him and His Word.

Scripture Passages

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Psalms 101:1-3

1 I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O Lord, I will make music.

2 I will ponder the way that is blameless.

Oh when will you come to me?

I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house;

3 I will not set before my eyes
anything that is worthless.

Proverbs 16:32

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 23:12, 15, 19

12 Apply your heart to discipline
And your ears to words of knowledge.

15 My son, if your heart is wise,
My heart will also be glad;

19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
And direct your heart in the way of the Lord.

Romans 8:1-2

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I Corinthians 2:14-16

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 What you have learned^[e] and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I Thessalonians 5:21

Test everything; hold fast what is good.

2 Timothy 2:7

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 3:13, 17

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.