

childhood

Unit 2

● Jesus welcomed children

* Matthew 19:13-15

How did Jesus welcome children?

Why should children come to Jesus?

* Matthew 18:1-4

In what way do we all need to be like children?



* Matthew 11:25-26 * 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

What other factors enable children to be responsive to God?

* Matthew 18:5-6

Why is it important for us to welcome children too?

Heartsearch

How would you describe the way you relate to and communicate with children?

very good good poor very poor

In what ways could adults cause children to sin?

* Matthew 21:14-16

What else can we learn from children?

● Children can be called by God to serve him

* 1 Samuel 3:1-21

What aspects of Samuel's character enabled him to hear God?

*Here I am
God!*



God gave a heavy message to Samuel. Why do you think he chose a boy and not a responsible adult?

Children can become Christians at an early age and can be quite receptive to God. Their thinking can be less cluttered than adults'.

* John 6:9 How did this boy serve Jesus? _____

● Children should be trained and taught about God

* 2 Timothy 1:5 * 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Who taught Timothy about God from an early age?

* Proverbs 22:6

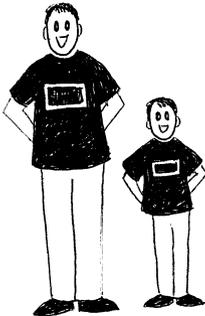
What is the effect of good training?

* Deuteronomy 6:6-9

When should this training and teaching take place?

* Deuteronomy 31:12-13 * 2 Chronicles 20:13

How else can it happen?



● Adults are an example

* 1 Kings 9:4 * 2 Chronicles 26:4

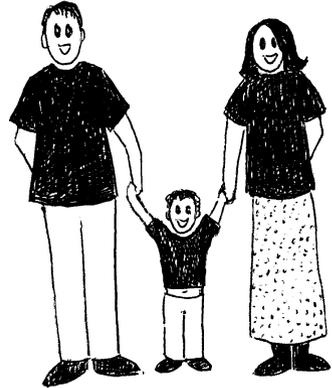
Teaching is only effective against a background of lives which are godly and full of integrity. Children will watch you carefully.

Heartsearch

Memories!

(Think about when you were under 11 for these questions.)

What are your best memories from childhood?



What are your worst memories from childhood?

How would you describe yourself as a child?

- quiet happy obedient honest pleasant
 noisy unhappy rebellious deceitful unpleasant

Would you say that your parents taught you about God? yes no

Would you say that your parents were a good example to you? yes no

How would you describe your relationships with your parents as a child?

- | | very good | good | poor | very poor |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| With father | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| With mother | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Have these relationships affected your life significantly? How?

What are your best memories about your parents?

● Children should obey their parents

* Colossians 3:20

Why should children obey? _____

* Proverbs 28:24

What should children not do? _____

● Parents should discipline their children

* Proverbs 19:18

The Bible encourages us to discipline children effectively. To fail to do so is to neglect our responsibility and will have bad consequences for the children in our care. Why is discipline and corporal punishment recommended by the writer of the Proverbs?

Prov 13:24 _____

Prov 22:15 _____

Prov 23:13-14 _____

Prov 29:15 _____

Prov 29:17 _____

* Hebrews 12:4-11

Why does God discipline us? _____

* Ephesians 6:4 * Colossians 3:21

What do parents need to avoid? _____



How well were you disciplined as a child?
Can you remember any particular occasions?

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extra thought and discussion

• Adoption

Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex 2:5-10) and Esther was adopted by her uncle (Est 2:7).

Adoption is used in the Bible to illustrate the complete incorporation of individuals into the family of God with the full rights of natural children (John 1:12-13, Eph 1:5, Gal 3:26-4:7).

• Orphans

God has particular concern for orphans (often referred to as fatherless) (Deut 10:18, Ps 10:14, 27:10, 68:5, 146:9). He also commands us to care for them (Ex 22:22, Deut 26:12, James 1:27).