

Here are a few texts that will remind us of God's view of faith.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom 10:17 NKJV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . faith. (Gal 5:22 NKJV)

(Josh 1:9 NKJV) Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid. . . . for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

(Prov 3:5-6 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

(Gal 2:20 NKJV) I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

(Eph 6:16) Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

(1 Tim 6:12 NKJV) Fight the good fight of faith.

(Heb 11:1) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Other terms for faith: Hope, trust, belief, confidence, conviction.

Faith in God is the most important value you can pass along to your children. Without it, values lack meaning and substance.

One Last Thought. . . .

*He accepted the offerings of children, and blessed the givers, inscribing their names in the book of life. In the Scriptures, Mary's anointing of Jesus is mentioned as distinguishing her from the other Marys. Acts of love and reverence for Jesus are an evidence of faith in Him as the Son of God. {Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 564}*



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Christian Values Children Should Know



FAITH IN GOD¹

¹ Based on the book "10 Christian Values Every Kid Should Know," by Dr. Donna Habenicht. Review & Herald

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Tim 4:12 NIV)

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP FAITH

While faith is a gift from God, there are many things you can do in your family to help children accept that gift.

1. Carefully design the atmosphere of your home to lead toward God.

Children absorb the atmosphere around them, so make yours palpably spiritual and faith-oriented.

2. Share your joy in the Lord. Talk about the special things God has done for your family. Thank Him daily for His blessings.

3. Pray for your children and with your children every day.

- Pray regularly with your children.
- Begin teaching your child with simple spontaneous prayer.
- Gradually introduce more aspects of prayer – praise, confession, promises, requests, intercession, thankfulness.
- Help your children experience prayer as a friendship with Jesus.
- Model the kind of prayers you want your children to experience.

4. As a family, read and study from God's Word every day.

- Show your own love and respect for God's Word. Have a special place of honor to keep the family Bible. Use the Bible every day, lovingly and reverently.
- Associate Bible learning with your love and care. Avoid angry confrontations or put-downs associated with the Bible. Instead, associate the Bible with cheerfulness, happiness, love, tenderness, and sympathy.
- Make Bible learning fun and interesting. Use Bible games, role playing, videos, and pictures. Give your child a special Bible. Create many opportunities to use the Bible at home. Make the Bible interesting by introducing extras, such as Bible customs, geography, or history. Avoid long speeches, tedious remarks, and hard words.
- Teach your older children how to use Bible study tools. Show them how to use reference books such as a concordance, atlas, dictionary, commentary, encyclopedia, source book, handbook, etc.

5. Share your personal faith experience with your children. Remember to “live the values.” Your own model speaks the loudest.

6. Be open to talking about faith and God with your children and discussing their questions and concerns.

7. Help your child develop a growing personal faith connection with Jesus and God.

Family Activity: Blindfold a child. Another child or an adult will be the blindfolded child's guide. Guide the child through different parts of the house, especially places where a guide is really needed because of small passageways or obstructions. The guide talks to the blindfolded person to lead him. Other family members can try to be distracting, by giving false directions or making lots of noise. Then reverse the roles until every family member has had a chance to lead and to follow. If the children are very young, eliminate the distractions.

Debriefing: How did it feel when you couldn't see where you were going? Did you trust your guide? Did your guide get you back safely without running into anything? Did you get tricked by some of the bad directions? What did you have to go through without running into anything? How is trust in God like this game?

Family Activity: 1 Peter 5:8 describes Satan as a roaring lion. Use newspapers or magazines and look for articles that describe Satan as a roaring lion – murder, dishonesty, hatred, cruelty, greed, etc. Look at the listing of movies.

Family Prayer Book: Make a family prayer book about the different parts of prayer – Love you, God! My Day. I'm Sorry, I Goofed. Thank You. Help!. You can use pictures in magazines or newspapers or pictures of their own or of themselves.