

How To Develop Resilient Faith (in our Kids)

Asking for a Friend



Questions from August 3, 2025

(1) Moralism or Grace: How do we live the Christian life?

- Christianity is not about moral perfection; it's dependence on God's grace through Christ. We are saints and sinners.
- We model this by treating our victories and failures as testimonies of God's grace, confessing sin & asking forgiveness.

(2) Control or Maturity: What's the goal of parenting?

- Trying to control your kids' beliefs is counter-productive.
- Instead, we must disciple them in a way that helps them to experience God and have freedom to develop their own faith.

(3) Idealism or Realism: How do we view our kids?

- Idealizing our kids leads to superficial communication, artificial intimacy, and generic prayer. Being realistic about their lives comes from spending time together, listening without judgment, asking thoughtful questions and offering wisdom.

(4) Legalism or Gospel: What saves us?

- Do you teach your kids that it is faith in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior that saves?
- Or do you elevate disputable doctrines, human opinions and cultural rules/norms as equally necessary to be a Christian?

(5) Short or Long-Term Perspective. What are we living for?

Ice Breakers

- (1) Share how you are doing and pray for each other.
- (2) How do you deal with your fears about your child's faith? What helps you to not be anxious or worried?

Digging Deeper & Living Out

- (3) Read Point 1 and Ephesians 2:8-10.
 - Explain the difference between moralism and grace. Why is moralism so destructive to faith?
 - What does it mean to say that Christians are simultaneously saints *and* sinners, and why is it crucial for our kids to understand?
 - Why is apologizing to our kids important? Why is it never too late?
- (4) Read Point 2 and Luke 10:38-42. Carefully sheltering our kids from secular ideas and trying to control what they believe usually backfires when they grow up. Why? What is a better alternative?
- (5) Read Point 3 and Proverbs 20:5. What does it mean to idealize your kids and why does it weaken the parent-child relationship? How does a realistic view of our kids actually strengthen our relationship and help us be better disciplers?
- (6) Read Point 4 and Matthew 23:23. Can you think of any disputable doctrines, human opinions, or cultural rules/norms that some Christians have treated as necessary to be a Christian? Why is legalism so deadly to faith? What are the essentials of the gospel?
- (7) Read Point 5 and Matthew 6:33. In discipling our kids, why is it so important to model an eternal perspective that prioritizes God's kingdom over earthly success? How can we help our kids develop the discipline to prioritize long-term joy over short-term gratification?