



AGE 9

The Trunk Years



HOME
22.6

AGE 9

A Snapshot of Life

All children develop differently, but some characteristics are the same. Below are some developmental changes that may be present this year as your child grows physically, emotionally, and spiritually during age nine. This is not an exhaustive list, but it should give you some insight into what to expect and how to parent your child through this stage of life.

At 9 years of age, your child

- May exhibit a high level of emotional intensity.
- Gravitates toward certain friends and may become deeply attached to a best friend.
- May begin to care about social issues.
- Desires to fit in.
- Cares about being right or wrong.
- Is very conscious of fairness.
- May be highly competitive.
- Feels a strong tension between being a child and pushing toward independence.

Parenting Tip

Your child will benefit from some freedom to exercise his or her growing independence. Continue to encourage dialogue with your child. Be patient and understanding as children at this begin to care what others think of them and desire to fit in.

Parent Dedication

What is Parent Dedication?

Parent dedication is giving a strong spiritual legacy to your children. The Legacy Principle, the Likelihood Principle, and the Lenses Principle are crucial to your child's spiritual growth. In the parent dedication section you'll find tools to help you grow as a parent. **The Legacy Principle** states that the scriptures tell us that what we do today directly influences the multi-generational cycle of family traits, beliefs and actions – for good or bad (Exodus 20:5-6, Psalm 78:5-8). So passing a strong faith to our children begins by having a strong faith ourselves, modeling the gospel in our marriages and in how we relate to those closest to us. Some of us need to break negative cycles that may have started with our own upbringing in order to launch a new and improved legacy for the next generation. **The Likelihood Principle** states that the good news is this: in the context of healthy relationships, children tend to embrace the values of their parents. Proverbs 22:6 tells us that when children learn right from wrong at home under the nurturing, loving training of parents, they tend to adopt mom and dad's beliefs. While there are no guarantees because every child has a free will, kids are far more likely to embrace their parent's faith if they enjoy their parent's company! That's a big part of the reason parents are warned not to "provoke your children to wrath" but rather "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Bottom line – a strong relationship with mom and dad is key to a strong Christian faith. **The Lenses Principle** says Jesus taught that our enemy's primary weapon is deception – getting us to believe and live according to lies rather than truth (John 8:44). And when someone is deceived, he or she does not know it! Our children are growing up in a culture that bombards them with lies. An hour or two per week at church is no match for the hundreds of hours spent with media, school, and friends. Nor can it compete with a child's fallen nature that often wants to rebel against what is good, true and beautiful. It is the job of parents to equip children with the corrective "lenses" of truth so they can better navigate the deceptive roads of life.

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As the primary disciple-maker of your children, your spiritual growth is very important. You cannot pass along to your children what you don't have yourself. Spend time each day in God's Word. Take time to pray and to listen to what His Holy Spirit has to say to you. You are important to Him.

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Parenting Tool: *Handling Anger*

At 9-years-old, your child may exhibit a high level of emotional intensity. He or she is concerned with being right or wrong and is in the process of developing strong friendships. This is a good time to talk about and model how to handle anger. Explain that we all get angry, but how we handle anger makes all the difference in our ability to maintain healthy relationships with others.

We all tend to expect certain things out of life such as fairness, appreciation, or agreement with our perspective, and we can get hurt and disappointed when our expectations are not met. When this happens, our disappointment can turn to anger. In other words, when life doesn't go according to our plans, we can become angry. James 4:1–2 speaks to this: "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."

Some parents write off their children's anger as "just the way they are" and allow their children to control them with their anger. Other parents can fuel anger in their children without realizing it. Most children become angry when they get frustrated. Ephesians 6:4 reminds us, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." By understanding several of the major sources that can frustrate and exasperate a child to anger, we can better understand how to help our child learn to handle anger. Below is a list of common root causes of anger for children:

- **Parental impatience**

A parent's constant attitude of impatience toward a child makes the child feel he or she is in the way and is unable to meet the parent's expectations.

- **Parental inconsistency**

Inconsistency in parental supervision, discipline, or rules is very frustrating to a child. Children feel confused when boundaries are constantly changing.

- **Fear**

Fear of rejection, abandonment, and/or failure often manifest themselves as anger. Some children internalize pressure to excel in academics or sports.

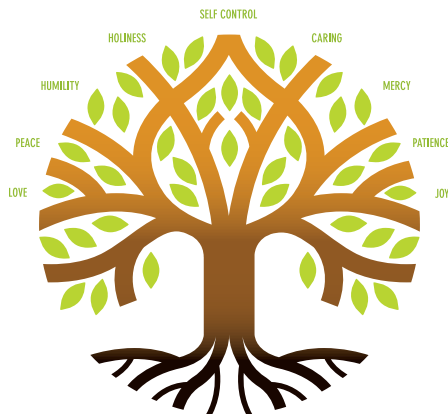
•Poor modeling

A child's anger can come from acting out what he or she sees in the family. Whether subtly or blatantly, parents can poorly model anger to their child. Just as children learn to walk and talk by watching parents, so they will learn to imitate displays of anger. Kids learn from both our good examples and our bad examples.

•Birth order

A number of middle children exhibit anger about their place in the lineup of offspring. Also, anger can develop within a child who feels less intelligent, less physically capable, or less talented than an older sibling. Parents must give careful attention to these issues.

Some authorities think that modeling is not just the best way to teach character and anger management to our children, but that it is the only way. The way you manage your anger and frustration provides children with the best possible model of handling their own. When you feel the warning signs that your anger is brewing, just remember that while anger is a feeling, behavior is a choice. Then proceed wisely—choose understanding, patience, resolution, and forgiveness. Choose to live in harmony with those you love the most. Be a model of Colossians 3:12, which instructs us, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering."



Explain that we all get angry, but how we handle anger makes all the difference in our ability to maintain healthy relationships with others.

Blessing Your Children

How do I bless my children?

There is power in a blessing. The Hebrew word for blessing is used over 640 times in the Old Testament alone. Do you know the very first thing God did after creating us? In Genesis 1:27–28 we read, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them...” We were made for blessing! Based on examples in the Bible, there are five basic elements that make up a biblical blessing:

1. Meaningful Touch Meaningful touch has many beneficial effects. The act of touch is a key to communicating warmth, personal acceptance, and affirmation—even physical health! For anyone who wishes to see the blessing grow and develop in a child, touch is an integral part of the blessing. As Mark 10:13–16 says, “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”

2. A Spoken Message Words have an incredible power to build us up or tear us down emotionally. This is particularly true when those words are coming from our parents. Therefore, the blessing hinges on a spoken message. Your child desperately needs to hear a spoken blessing from you. As parents, we must be keenly aware of the power of the spoken word and also be aware of how powerful the absence of spoken words can be. Both people and relationships suffer in the absence of words of blessing, or those spoken words of love, encouragement, and support. Proverbs 16:24 reminds us, “Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones...”

3. Expression of High Value To “value” something means to attach great importance to it. This is at the very heart of the concept of blessing. Anytime we bless someone, we are attaching high value to him or her. Our children need to hear that they are someone who has great worth apart from his or her performance. As Ephesians 4:29 reminds us, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

4. Picture of a Special Future Communicating a special future to a child is another important part of giving the blessing. Children are filled with the potential to be all God intends them to be. Picturing a special future for your children can help bring out the best in their lives. It gives them a positive direction to strive toward and surrounds them with hope. When a child feels in his or her heart that the future is hopeful and something to look forward to, it can greatly affect his or her attitude toward life. We can see this very thing in our relationship with the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ says the Lord, ‘thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.’”

5. An Active Commitment The first four elements listed above are the building blocks of the blessing, but the mortar that holds them together is an active commitment—the fifth element. This element of the blessing describes the responsibility that goes with the blessing. Parents need to rely on the Lord to give them the strength and staying power to confirm their children’s blessing. You have God’s Word through the Scriptures as a guide, plus the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Words alone cannot communicate the blessing; they need to be backed with a commitment to do everything possible to help the one blessed to be successful. Isaiah 40:31 encourages us, “But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

For more information on the biblical blessing, see *The Gift of the Blessing* by Gary Smalley and John Trent, PhD.

Ways to Bless Your Child

Use the following Scripture, or any Scripture you choose, to pray over your child daily. This can be at night before he or she goes to bed, in the morning as you wake him or her up, in the car on the way to school, or any time in between:

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

—Philippians 1:9–11

Write a blessing for your child based on the blessing elements of “expression of high value,” “picture of a special future,” and “an active commitment,” as described in the “Blessing Your Children” section.

1. Words of love and acceptance

Name qualities about your child that you admire; focus on who your child is, rather than what he or she does. For example, compliment your child on how he or she exhibits one of these characteristics: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, mercy, and humility.

2. Acknowledgement of a special future

Tell your child ways you see how God can use him or her in the future. For example, you might say, “God has given you such a sensitive heart. I wouldn’t be surprised if you end up helping a great many people when you grow older.”

3. Reaffirmation of your commitment

Be sure your child knows you are on his or her team and are supportive. You might say something like, “Don’t forget I am here to support you, pray for you, and encourage you to be all God intends for you to be.”

4. Give a Written Blessing

Give your child a written blessing at a special dinner or one-on-one time. Be sure to keep the written blessing in your child’s blessing box.

5. One-on-one time

Plan one-on-one time with your child, in which you can include the five elements of blessing. Some suggestions for one-on-one time with your 9-year-old include:

- People watching at the mall
- Attending an outdoor concert
- Taking a hike
- Taking your child out to breakfast before school
- Lying down and gazing at the stars
- Finding the best pie place in town and going out for a slice
- Getting all dressed up and going out to a fancy dinner
- Going go-karting
- Going roller skating or ice skating
- Skipping rocks along a lake

What's a Blessing Box?

In Genesis 1:27–28 God's Word says, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them..." We were all made for blessing! Written words can place unconditional love and acceptance into the heart of a child. One idea for sharing blessings with your children is to have a "blessing box," or a special box where you can store written blessings and encouraging words for your child as they develop. Several ideas for written blessings include Scripture passages you claim for your child, words of affirmation, descriptions of accomplishments, desires for the future, prayers, or whatever God puts on your heart. Continue to store these blessings in the special box throughout your child's life. Think of what a treasure it will be in your child's adult life to have this blessing box!

Family Time

What is Family Time?

The idea of family worship is both attractive and intimidating. The thought of beginning a new pattern of worship in the home can be overwhelming for those just beginning. This guide includes answers to basic questions that we hope will equip you to lead your family in worship.

What does the Bible say about growing together in Christ as a family?

The importance of the family in discipleship is prominent throughout the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:5-7; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15). Husbands are primarily responsible for the spiritual leadership of their wives (Ephesians 5:22-33). Parents, especially fathers, are primarily responsible for the spiritual growth of their children (Ephesians 6:1-3). These are huge responsibilities, but God has promised to provide everything we need to lead our families well, according to His design. As leaders in our home, the critical thing to remember is that God's Word must be written upon our hearts. Our faith in Christ and reliance on His Word should be authentic, tangible, and transparent.

What are the benefits of family worship?

- Family worship brings glory to God. It is a visible reminder for all in the home that God is worthy of our time, attention, and affection.
- Family worship produces joy in the home. Jesus will bring joy to families who worship and grow together. The love of Christ will be more evident in a family where worship is central.
- Family worship effects change in the world. As families read, pray, study, sing, and grow together, they join from their homes in what God is doing across the nations, while influencing each other's lives for generations to come.

What should we do during family worship?

Keep it simple. Consider the following elements as you worship together:

READ—Read a portion of the Bible together. Don't worry if you've already read it in your time alone with God. Reading a chapter a second time will only reinforce what God is teaching you. If children are present and able to read, allow them to do so. Of course, you'll want to explain difficult words and concepts (but don't worry too much if you can't explain everything!).

DISCUSS—After reading the Bible together, work through a simple process of examining what has been read, much like you do in your own time alone with God. Give everyone a chance to discuss the passage and consider how it applies to everyday life. Ideally, you will lead by example and share with your family what you learned in your time alone with God and the difference it has made.

PRAY—Consider praying through the key points of the Bible passage that you have just read and discussed. Ask God to change your hearts, minds, lives, and family accordingly. This specific prayer can lead to a more general time of prayer that uses the letters P-R-A-Y as a guide:

Praise—Worship God for who He is.

Repent—Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.

Ask—Intercede for particular needs in your life and other's lives.

Yield—Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever He leads you.

Try to include everyone as you pray, even if this is on a rotating basis. Additionally, you may want to keep a prayer journal that enables you to keep track of prayer requests and God's answers to those requests.

SING—Sing or listen to music together as a family. If someone in the family has musical gifts, that person may lead some simple songs. If no one in your family is musical, you can sing along with music from a CD or DVD and discuss what the songs mean.

MEMORIZE—Choose key verses or passages to memorize. You may want to work on a verse or passage for a week or a month. Either way, be sure to work together, taking time to understand what you are memorizing. Periodically, set aside time to review verses over the course of the year.

Frequently Asked Questions About Family Worship

1. What if a father or mother is not a Christian?

The commands regarding family discipleship in the Bible assume believing parents. Of course, this is not always the case. In those instances where the father is not a follower of Christ, the mother will need to take the initiative for leading family worship in a non-offensive and non-threatening way. In the case of a mother not being a follower of Christ, the father should lead with compassion and sensitivity.

2. What about a single parent family?

In this case, the responsibility falls to the single parent. This, along with the many other duties that single parents have, may present a significant challenge. However, God will supply great grace and everything we need to raise and strengthen our children in the faith.

3. What about children?

The dynamic of family worship will vary considerably depending upon the ages of the children involved. The goal for every child in the family is not the same. With young children, focus on the importance of knowing God, respecting the Bible, and worshiping as a family. With older children, dig into Scripture more, ask good questions, and discuss how the Bible relates to life and how a relationship with Christ changes us every day.

4. How do I keep things interesting if the ages of my children vary widely?

Regardless of age, include children in planning, reading, singing, teaching, and praying as much as possible and as much as maturity will allow. Make sure to keep things simple, and don't be afraid to keep it short; listen well, and be aware of what is happening in each child's heart and life.

5. What time of day is best for family worship?

Timing is far less important than consistency. Some families prefer to worship as the day begins. For others, evening may work best. Many families prefer to adjoin family worship to the evening meal since everyone may be present at that time.



Deuteronomy 6:7 says,
"You shall teach [God's words] 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 up."

Concentrated time in family worship
can serve as a catalyst and support for
"as you go, as you sit, as you walk"
conversations and applications of God's
Word within our families. Encouraging
and challenging our spouses and children
in Christian faith happens best in the
context of real, everyday life. Family
worship builds consistency into our family
routines and opens up many opportunities
and possibilities within our family
relationships.



A Family Time from Deuteronomy 5& 6

READ

o Deuteronomy 5:1-22

o This chapter lays out the commandments God gave to Moses that all of the Children of Israel were to follow. By living their lives in a different way than other nations around them, they would be bringing glory to God.

o Deuteronomy 6:1-9

o This chapter contains some of the most important verses in all of the Old Testament. The Shema (Deut. 6:4-5) is a statement of faith in the one true God and a commitment to love Him wholeheartedly. These words urge the people of God to listen attentively to His Word and obey it with all their hearts. This is how God's people would demonstrate love for Him.

The Bottom Line: By God's grace, He has given us His Word, and love for Him is found in obedience to His commands.

Questions:

- Why do you think God created the Ten Commandments?
- Why does Moses encourage the Children of Israel to obey the Ten Commandments?
- How can we live our lives in ways that are different from the world around us in order to display God's glory?
- In Chapter 6, what are the directives given for showing and teaching God's Word within the family? What are the implications for parents? for children? for all Christ-followers?

PRAY

o When we pray a prayer of thanksgiving, we are expressing our gratitude to God. Prayers of thanksgiving can be lifted up in response to who God is, what He has done for us through Christ and for the blessings He continually bestows upon us.

Biblical Basis for Thanksgiving:

Psalm 69:30, Psalm 100:4, Philippians 4:6, Revelation 7:12

Take some time for each of those gathered with you to express their thanks to the Lord.

o Pray for the Nation of Bulgaria

- Ask God to work in the hearts of the Eastern Orthodox Church leaders and members and draw them to the Gospel of Christ.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters in Bulgaria to stand firm in the faith and unite for the sake of the Gospel.
- Pray for God to use the Bulgarian church to minister to those in great physical and spiritual need.
- Ask God to soften the hearts of Bulgarians who have been hardened by communism.

Source: Operation World by Johnstone and Mandryk

MEMORIZE

o Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions to help their children discover the truths of God's Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

o Go to the car. Help your child to get into the car and sit in their car seat or secure them with the seat belt.

o Say, "We don't ride in the car without a seatbelt. It is a law in our state and in our house that you must wear your seatbelt. There is a good reason for this law. The seatbelt/car seat protects you from harm. I love you so much that I will always obey this law because I do not want you to get hurt. Let's go inside and talk about someone else who loves Family Time Deuteronomy 5:1-22 & 6:1-9 you so much that He created good laws for you to obey."

o God gave us a set of rules in the Bible called "The Ten Commandments." God loves us so much that he created these rules for us, so when we obey them, we show God how much we love Him too. Just like our law says to

wear your seatbelt in the car because it is good for you, it's the same with God's rules. His rules are always right. They are always good for us. When we follow them, other people can see how much we love God, too.

Children (Grades 1-5)

o God gave His people the Ten Commandments – ten very important rules. God gave these rules because He is a Father who loves His children.

o Review the Ten Commandments in simple language:

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Put God first in everything | 6) Do not murder |
| 2) No idols | 7) Marriage is a promise |
| 3) Don't misuse God's name | 8) Do not steal |
| 4) Remember the Sabbath as a holy day | 9) Do not lie |
| 5) Obey your parents | 10) Do not covet |

o Does your family have rules that are not in the Ten Commandments?

Let the children list some. Why do your parents have these rules? Ex. Your parents probably don't let you ride your bike to the park all by yourself.

They have this rule because they love you. What could happen if you disobeyed this rule? (Get lost or hurt) Your parents don't have this rule to keep you from having fun, they have this rule because they love you and want to protect you. Because God is our Heavenly Father, He also gives us commands to protect us. How do the Ten Commandments help to keep you from harm and bad things?

o How do you show your parents that you love them? (Hugs, kisses, spend time together) You can also show your parents love by obeying them. When you obey mom or dad, it is like saying, "I trust you to do what's best for me." We trust people that we love. Would you trust your grandparents or another family member? Would you trust a stranger? Why or why not?

o Activity: Blindfold child and place a ball across the room. Call out simple directions to retrieve the ball. In this activity, you had to trust your parents' directions. How did it feel? We can't always know what's going to happen, but God does. So we can trust Him to give us directions in our life through the Bible. This shows God that we really love Him.

o Review Deut. 6:4-5. How can you love God with all your heart, soul and might (meaning with your thoughts, feelings, and actions)? How will obeying God's rules make you different from other kids? Does this bring God glory?

o Read John 14:15. What does Jesus say we will do if we love Him? How will others know that we are different from the world? Because we obey God's commands. This is how we ultimately bring great glory to God.

Students (Grades 6-12)

o The word love is used in a lot of different ways: I love candy, I love pizza, I love football, I love that person, etc. What does it mean to "love the Lord your God with your whole heart, soul and mind"? What are some things we cherish or put before our love for God? Parents: have students make a list of these things to keep as a reminder of what can stand in the way of their love for God.

o Being honest with yourself, what would you say are the top 5 things you cherish and love with your heart, soul, and mind? In other words, what do you care about most? What do you spend most of your time doing? What occupies your mind the most? How can we keep the focus of our heart, soul and mind on God and not on the other things that cry out for our focus? Students can use their list to pray, asking God to change their hearts so they love Him more than the things on their list.

o Encourage your student to make an effort this week to build on their relationship with God through prayer and listening to and obeying His Word. Parents pray over your student and ask God to give them the strength and desire to love Him more.

Church Community

What is Church Community?

With so many young people leaving the church after they are under the leadership of their parents, it is important that we teach the necessity of the church. Scripture says that the church is the Bride of Christ and He has given the church these four responsibilities: worship God, connect with others, grow in God's Word, and go tell the world about Christ. It is important that our children understand the heart behind what the church is meant to be and that our children allow Christ to transform their hearts to serve Him through His church.

We go to church to worship our God who has saved each of us and given us a personal relationship with Him. We go to church to come together to celebrate our Heavenly Father by giving Him our worship. Our children should see families living their lives side-by-side, sharing experiences, caring for each other, being open with one another, and praying together. Our children should know that the church is a place where they can grow in their faith and gain the knowledge that will help them grow closer to the Lord and live a more abundant life. In other words, our children should know the church is a place where we can be transformed. Finally, the church leads us to the point where we must open our eyes and our hearts to step out and follow the nudging of the Holy Spirit to reach the world around us.



Is There Any Real Proof That the Bible Is True?

An inspired historical record

Our children are often challenged in times that we are not even aware of. The Bible could be questioned by other children, other parents, or different people at school, so it would be wise to teach them the truth to better equip them to understand their faith. Although some critics have accused the Bible of merely recounting fanciful stories and having no higher merit than that of a classical literary work, this wonderful book has proved to be much more. The Bible gives historical accounts not only of those nations favored by God but also of other historically renowned individuals and nations, allowing the Bible's historical record to be compared with secular histories. The historical accuracy of the Scriptures has been verified repeatedly, proving far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations. As one writer said, "Despite the continuing media assaults on the Bible's claim to be a supernatural revelation from God, evidence from historical inscriptions and manuscripts discovered in the last century proves that the Word of God is inspired."

Accuracy confirmed by ancient texts and archaeological findings

Ancient writings discovered in the past century have revealed that the forty-one kings named in the Old Testament who ruled either Israel or surrounding nations really existed and were not fabricated personalities as some had previously thought. On the contrary, rulers such as David (2 Samuel 5:3), Solomon (1 Kings 4:1), Nebuchadnezzar (1 Kings 24:1), and others have been found to be actual historical individuals. Amazingly, these discoveries came as an unwelcome surprise to numerous Bible critics, who, in past decades, made accusations against the Scriptures, claiming that these Bible characters were merely mythical people.

In the past, unbelieving scholars have also alleged there are no ancient manuscripts about Jesus outside the New Testament. Such claims have been shown to be absurd and without merit. Writings confirming Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection include, but are not limited to, Flavius Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews* (AD 93), the Babylonian Talmud (AD 70-200), Pliny the Younger's letter to the Emperor Trajan (around AD 100), the

Tacitus' *Annals* (AD 115-117), the writings of Mara Bar-Serapion (post AD 73), and Suetonius' "Life of Claudius" and "Life of Nero" (AD 120).

The Bible's record of many historical events has also been confirmed to be accurate. For instance, Diodorus Siculus (90-21 BC), a Greek historian who traveled extensively throughout the Middle East acquiring a vast knowledge of ancient history, spoke of the Exodus in his literary work, *Library of History*. Within his writings, he spoke of "a great plague in Egypt," "many strangers in the land," and described how "these emigrants were led by Moses, who was superior to all in wisdom and prowess." In fact, Siculus' account is not the only one to record the marvelous event of the Exodus. Manetho and Cheremon, two Egyptian priest-scholars, also wrote of the Exodus, the Israelites, and Moses, confirming the historical accuracy of one of the greatest Bible stories ever recorded.

In addition to written history, the unearthing of archeological sites—resulting in discoveries of specific cities, unique individuals, and other ruins—has shed new light on the historical accuracy of the sacred text. In fact, many archeologists and historians have gained enough respect for the Bible's precise record of historical events that they now use it as a historical guide in their relentless pursuit of lost civilizations.

Today, the Bible remains a reliable guidebook for fascinating discoveries in archeology. From the excavation of Jericho's crumbled walls (Joshua 6:20; Hebrews 11:30) to the discovery of chariot wheel remnants scattered along the seafloor in the Gulf of Aqaba, part of the Red Sea, (Exodus 14:21–25) to the uncovering of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24–29) to the findings related to the house of David, King of Israel (2 Chronicles 8:11)—it is overwhelming to consider the innumerable antiquities constantly found by archeologists that are just as the Scriptures claim.

Another striking proof of the Bible's divine origin is that the Bible recorded several modern principles of science as fact long before science was able to confirm the scientific principles experimentally. At the time the Bible was written, it contradicted many early scientific hypotheses and theories of the era. However, it is amazing that of all the remarkable statements made by the Spirit-guided writers of the Bible regarding the natural realm, not one biblical statement regarding natural phenomena has ever been contradicted by the laws of science or modern scientific discoveries, even though some of the statements seemed ridiculous during the era they were made.

For example, consider the following evidence. The Bible claims that the stars cannot be numbered (Genesis 15:5; 22:17), a fact astronomers did not agree with until 3,000 later. The Scriptures also state that the universe is running down, a discovery not made by man until 2,500 years after it was initially revealed in the Bible (Isaiah 51:6; Psalms 102:26; Romans 8:20 – 21). Regarding the earth, the Bible says it is round (Isaiah 40:22), rotates on an axis (Job 38:12; Luke 17:31-34), and is suspended in the vastness of space (Job 26:7)—amazingly, these biblical statements were made 1,600, 3,550, and 3,600 years, respectively, before scientists were able to prove their validity independently. The Scriptures also foretold that man was made from the same materials as the earth (Genesis 2:8, 3:19, Psalms 103:14) 3,200 years before scientists reached this same conclusion. The Bible states that blood sustains life (Leviticus 17:11), a fact that physicians agreed with 3,300 years after it had already been revealed in Scripture.

Science has proved biblical statements regarding natural phenomena to be scientifically accurate, and these truths have assisted some scientists in their pursuit of knowledge and truth. For example, Matthew Fountain Maury often referred to and accredited as the father of oceanography, simply “took God at His Word” and set out to discover the natural occurrence of oceanic currents as described in the Bible.

A spiritual text that affirms scientific principles of the nature world

Though the Bible often refers to the physical realm, it is not a scientific textbook—its primary concern is with those things that are spiritual. Nevertheless, biblical references to the facts of nature, whether alluded to or specified, are completely in accord with provable, scientific facts.

As in a courtroom, if the testimony is found to be accurate on internal and external grounds, then the case is strong and believable. Based on a careful examination of the evidence, we can confidently conclude: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Discipling As You Go

What is Discipling As You Go?

Deuteronomy 6 is clear in its instructions to parents: constantly, as you live your life, be an example and train your children to follow the Lord. As parents, it is important for us to live a consistent life of faith in front of our children. As things happen in life, we should use those events to train our children, not only in right and wrong, but also in how to make decisions to live the abundant life that Christ has for us. We should model and explain how God's truth is the standard of how we live our lives. In other words, even from the beginning, we should teach wisdom rather than the facts of "do's and don'ts." Faith is much easier caught than taught. Parents should always help their children see life's decisions through the lenses of our faith.



Parenting Tools: *Teasing*

Dealing with Teasing

Teasing—whether your child is the one being teased or the one doing the teasing, it is important to understand the many reasons why children tease others. Many children tease for the attention. Teasing is a good way of receiving negative attention. Unfortunately, for many children, negative attention is better than no attention. Some children model or mimic what is happening to them at home by acting the same way to others at school or in the neighborhood. These kids who tease are children who may be teased by siblings or who experience aggressive or harsh parenting. Many kids who tease have low self-esteem and feel superior when they put others down. They may experience much power when teasing upsets others. It is not uncommon to see children engage in teasing behavior because they may perceive it as being the "cool" thing to do. It may help them feel like part of

a group. The need to belong may be so strong that a child may tease others to be accepted by the “popular” kids.

A lack of understanding of “differences” is the underlying factor in some teasing. Many children are not familiar with or do not understand cultural or ethnic differences. A child with a physical impairment or a learning disability may be the target of teasing because he is different. Some kids judge or criticize anyone who is different instead of trying to learn or understand what makes another special. One cannot discuss the reasons why children tease without acknowledging the powerful influence of the media. Our children are frequently exposed to teasing, put-downs, sarcasm, and a lack of respect in many of the TV shows geared toward them.

Strategies for Dealing with Teasing

We cannot control what others say to our children. However, our children can learn to control their own reactions. Parents can teach their children a few simple strategies listed below that will empower them and reduce feelings of helplessness.

Ignore the teasing. Explain to your child how displays of anger or tears often invite more teasing. Therefore, it is often effective for children to ignore the person teasing them. Your child should not look at or respond to the person. If possible, encourage your child to walk away from the person doing the teasing. Try to role-play “ignoring” with your children. Praise children for their excellent “acting.” It should be noted that ignoring might not be effective in prolonged teasing situations.

Visualize the words bouncing off. Many young children respond well to the practice of visualizing negative words “bouncing off” of them. It provides kids with the concrete image of not having to accept or believe what is said. Showing how Nerf balls bounce off a person can create this image. Another effective visualization is for a child to pretend he has a shield around him that helps the hurtful or bad words bounce off. Again, this gives children the message that they can refuse these put-downs.

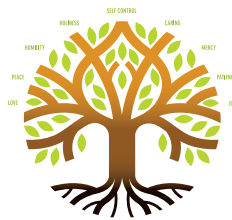
Agree with the facts. Explain to your child how agreeing with the facts can be one of the easiest ways to handle an insult or tease. Here are two examples of agreeing with the facts:

Insult: “You have so many freckles!” Response: “Yes, I have a lot of freckles.”
Insult: “You are such a cry baby....” Response: “I do cry easily.”

Agreeing with facts usually eliminates the feeling of wanting to hide the freckles or the tears. Ask “So?” The response of “So?” conveys indifference to the person doing the teasing and lets that person know that the tease doesn’t matter. Children can find this technique simple yet quite effective.

There are so many lessons our children can learn from a situation that involves teasing. Whether we are teaching our children not to tease or we are teaching them how to handle being teased, our goal is to help them realize that everyone is loved and has value to God. He loved us so much that he died for us, every one of us (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:8; John 1:12). A situation that involves teasing is also a good time to teach that we are to love our enemies and even pray for them. In Matthew 5:44–46 Jesus says, “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Remind your children we can all be nice to those who are nice to us, but our love for Jesus shines through when we are nice to those who treat us unfairly. In times of trouble, always remind them to cast their cares upon the Lord. Philippians 4:6–7 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Jesus is always the answer!



Whether we are teaching our children not to tease or how to handle being teased, our goal is to help them realize everyone is loved and has value to God. Philippians 4:6–7 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”