

Teaching Faith to our Children  
Family Remodeling Series  
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June 11, 2017



Definition of Faith (from internet):

**Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.**

So, I can have faith in the Coffee I'm drinking – that it's not poison?  
I can have faith in shaking Craig's hand – that he's not going to break my hand?

**Faith is:**

**Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.**

I have faith that gravity is going to keep holding my feet to the ground and I'm not going to float away somewhere? I can't see gravity – yet I have faith.

By that definition – we have faith in a lot of different things and people.

- I can have faith in Bob's Coffee – because I have a history with it – it has never poisoned me.
- I can have faith in shaking Craig's hand because he has never broken my hand in the 4 years we've Worshipped together.
- I can have faith in an unseen gravity – because it was a scientific discovery and explains why remain on earth and not being like a balloon.

The other part of the definition is a “strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.”

I'll take the first part- a strong belief in God.



The best definition is from the Scripture **Heb 11:1**

**“Now faith is the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” NLT**

When I’m talking about Faith today – I’m talking about a **relationship with God that I can trust Him with every aspect of my life – my**

**family/job/friends/church/health/finances/time/shelter/food**

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**Heb 11:1**  
**“Now faith is the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” NLT**

When Bob and I were expecting our first child – we went to a prenatal class and received a diploma for finishing the course – certifying that we had completed a parenting class. Bob used to keep this certificate in a document frame hanging in his office with his College Diplomas.

I read the Dr. Spock books, James Dobson’s books – the Strong-willed Child came out just in the nick of time! But the best resource on how to raise our children is taken from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (also known as the Sh’ma – “Hear O Israel”



God’s design for family – is that parents are to teach their children –

Yes, we send our children to school (or home school); take them to the Dr for their health; We show them how to brush their teeth and make sure they do.

We sign them up for swimming lessons, karate lessons, painting lessons, Cheerleading lessons, little league, bands, choirs, music lessons, plays, etc – and often leave out the most important elements. I’m not saying these are bad things to have our children participate in – really they’re great at helping our children develop discipline, coordination, skills, abilities, team work, cooperation – but let’s face it – none of these are going to save our children for all eternity.

## **Illustration**

*The late J. Edgar Hoover was once asked, “Should I make my child go to Sunday school and church?” His reply was both Scriptural and practical. “Yes,” said the former head of the FBI, “you certainly should, and with no further discussion about the matter. You may be startled by my answer, but what do you say to Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces he isn’t going to school anymore? You know! He goes! How do you answer him when he comes home covered with mud and says, ‘I’m not going to take a bath.’ Junior bathes, doesn’t he? Why all this timidity, then, in the realm of spiritual guidance and growth? You say you’re going to let him wait and decide what church he wants to go to when he is old enough? Quit your kidding! You wouldn’t wait until he’s grown up to choose whether he wishes to be clean or dirty, would you? Do you let him decide for himself whether to take medicine when he’s sick? Do you? How shall we respond, then, when Junior says he doesn’t want to go to Sunday school and church? That’s easy! Just be consistent. Tell him, ‘Son, in our house we ALL go to Sunday school and church, and that includes you!’ Your firmness and example will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion will then travel into many rich and satisfying spiritual experiences.”*

**The thing is – IF Faith is so important to pass onto our children – why are there so many children engaged in so many activities that worship has become just another activity when there is time? Why do parents think that they should let their child decide about God when he/she’s old enough to make her own mind up about God?**

**Why do parents listen to Worldly values or being “Politically correct” and omit teaching things of God?**

**Isn’t it obvious that out of all the things we teach our children – Building a relationship with God through Faith would seem to be- by far, the most important thing to teach our children.**

WHY is it important to  
teach our children FAITH?

- 1) FAITH builds a relationship with God
- 2) FAITH helps a child not to be fearful
- 3) FAITH grows
- 4) FAITH protects

So, let's take a look at the "WHY" is teaching faith in God important to our children? And all the children in our lives?

1) Faith builds a relationship with God.

When God enters your life – unconditional love. This is the BEST relationship we can ever have in this world.

- 2) To help a child not be fearful as Jesus is always there with them – He'll give the Strength to make it through a situation or provide an "escape."  
**Is 41:10** – "Fear not for I am always with you; be not dismayed: I will strengthen you.
- 3) Faith grows – (a lifetime process but getting to start as a child).
- 4) Faith Protects – it is a piece of spiritual armor - shield of faith to extinguish the fiery darts that Satan will throw them.
- 5) Faith leads to obedience and results in action  
**Heb 11** – the Faith chapter – it lists Bible people who were faithful – but mainly it highlights their actions that showed their faith.
- 6) Faith helps children to see they have a purpose in this life. Parents may not be able to teach a child what he/she should be – but we can teach them WHO they are. That child was born for a reason and his/her life could impact other lives for all eternity. Understanding that they have a purpose in life can eliminate their vulnerability to behaviors that might hurt them later.
- 7) Faith brings blessings every time. It also leads a child to bless others.

8) **Faith Saves** (Eph 2:8) for all eternity (not just in the here and now – but forever). There are no other ways of living with God for all eternity except through Jesus. Jesus said, “I am THE way, THE truth, THE Life – no one comes unto the Father except through me.”



So, now the **“HOW”** – to teach our children about Faith:

1) This may sound like last’s week sermon –but **CONSISTENCY** – we need to live and model a life of faith consistently.

- a. Deut. 6:6,7 “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”
- b. We can’t trust God about some things and not about others.
- c. Be real – genuine
- d. Allow the Holy Spirit to keep growing in our lives – so we can display the fruit of the Spirit to everyone (including our children) – love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
- e. Words can build a child up – or tear a child down.
- f. The old saying, “Everything we do teaches...” Every action, every word, every lack of action, etc.
- g. Pray with your children at every day. Teach them the importance of prayer; being thankful, building that relationship with God.
- h. Worship with your children – youth group- Sunday School
- i. Help children to understand that a relationship with Jesus is not a **HAVE TO** but rather – we get to have a relationship with the

King of all kings – we get to worship – we get to pray.... We get to love our Savior and He loves us!!!

## 2. Use stories from the Bible to teach about God

- a. There are so many Bible heroes (heroines) demonstrating faith- David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego, Peter walking on the water, Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal, Abel, Rahab, Ehud, Esther, etc.
- b. Many of these stories we share about faith have great endings – positive endings – God comes through – to the rescue. When in real life – God is always faithful but the ending isn't always what we want it to be. (Like the song we just sang – when God doesn't move the mountains we're needing Him to move... }

Try to highlight the journey and acts of faith before the outcome.

Focus on the relationship with Jesus –

- Though we believe and do not doubt, God may not do everything we ask of Him or how we want him to handle things.
- Because God knows better than we do – He gives us exactly what we need in each situation – sometimes that's healing, Sometimes its not – but strength to face a situation; a neighbor to help; people to shower love and care.



## 3. Use and make Teachable Moments

- a. Circumstances that bring up feelings of sadness, anger, awe, wonder, fear, love, -- anything to help them see how God is at work.
- b. Talk with your children (sitting around a dinner table – going for a walk – a ride in a car, etc) see what is on their minds and hearts.

- c. Use these moments to help your child pray about things that are concerning them.
- d. Make learning fun – Jesus was never boring!!! His Miracles demonstrate that – a lot of object lessons – water into wine?  
A coin in the mouth of a fish that Peter caught to pay their temple tax?
- e. Sometimes the teachable moment comes from standing up for our children (they may seem hopeless/helpless) Mt. 15:21-38
  - 1. Persistent Mother – Trust/Faith/Worship
- f. Jesus with the children – and the disciples try to “shoo” them away. Doesn’t it make you wonder what Jesus was saying to the children – we know He was blessing and loving – teaching them who God is? I can hear Jesus laugh at a child’s corny joke. Doesn’t it make you wonder how those children grew up? Some of Jesus’ greatest disciples? Men/Women of Faith? Men/Women of Love? Best Mothers and Fathers? Maybe they even witnessed to their parents and they became Christians... With the power of Christ’s love –  
**Eph 3:20 “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine....”**
- g. **Deut. 6:6,7 “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”**

#### 4. Remember

- a. Help children remember what God has done in the past
- b. Help them remember what they have prayed about and how God answered that prayer.
- c. Help go over Sunday School lessons and application
- d. **Deut 6:8,9 “And tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”**

The Jews took this literally, and developed “phylacteries.” These were little leather boxes with a piece of Scripture inside. They were worn on a hand or on the forehead. This was a way of reminding people to think about God’s Word.

#### 5. Share Your faith

a. What are the results of your faith? What Actions do you do as a result of your trust and love of the Savior?

b. Spending time with God’s Word, Prayer?

c. Sharing your testimony with others – with your children too.

(1 Pet 3:15 NIV) But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”

d. Focus not on yourself – but on others.

e. Christian entertainment

f. Christian friendships

g. Sharing their faith with others

#### Conclusion:

Is it time to consistently be a model of love and faith in God in your own life?

What steps do you need to take so that your child can develop a faith of their own?

- Be Available?
- Pray with your child?
- Read your Bible together?
- Help make Worship a family a priority?
- Live out the Shema in your home?
- Help your children discover their purpose?
- Maybe you need to grow in your faith so you can lead your child?



How can you help your children to discover their purpose

If you are a child here today – what can you do to know Jesus better?

I am so thankful that God was important in our home; that along with our home, our church, our youth group, Camp LRCA, and Lincoln Christian University, relatives and friends that modeled Faith in Jesus, our children developed a “Faith of their own.”

YES – teaching faith to our children more than anything else – is extremely important!

Some day, may all of us and our children come to experience this verse in  
2 Tim 4:7-8

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Tim 4:7-8

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the FAITH. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day...”



