

## God's Design For Raising Children

### Today's World Can Be A Confusing Place!

As a parent, you may want to protect your child from the confusing influences of this “world.” That may be impossible! It is more effective to use God's plan in Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 to lay a strong foundation of biblical principles while your child is young. Then, when your child is exposed to “gender confusion” messages, he/she will be able to remain firmly sure of who he, or she is in the Lord! Your child will be exposed to gender confusion through:

- **School texts that “normalize” gender confusion.**
- **TV shows and movies that “normalize” gender confusion.**
- **News programs that highlight those who have “changed” their gender.**
- **Children who express their own gender confusion.**
- **“Stars” who are celebrated for their gender “choices.”**

Being a parent today is a challenging experience. Children are surrounded by ungodly influences that are very visible and “tempting.”

God designed a plan for you to pass on His principles of life to your children so they can make life decisions that please Him. This plan is in Deuteronomy 6: 4-9.

1. **You, as a parent, must love God with all your heart, soul, and strength** (verses 5-7). *Your children learn from your example!*
2. **Talk about the Lord during meal times** (verse 7). *Let family meal times include relaxing conversations about God.*
3. **Talk about the Lord while traveling** (verse 7). *Engage your child in meaningful conversations in the car or while walking. Turn off electronics.*
4. **Talk about the Lord at bedtime** (verse 7). *Start early and enjoy loving conversations about God and prayer.*
5. **Talk about the Lord in the morning** (verse 7). *Begin earlier to protect a calm morning of hopeful conversations about God's presence and help for the day.*

### Children's Ministry

*(Children's Ministry Vision Statement)*

## Raising A Child With A Strong Gender Identity

*How to affirm your child's God-created gender, and establish a lifelong experience of being a powerful man or woman of God!*

*“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

Genesis 1:27

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he won't depart from it.”*

Proverbs 22: 6

(Church Logo)

# Raising A Child With A Strong Gender Identity

God's plan for raising children "in the ways of the Lord," is based on the family. In Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, He gives us specific instructions for passing on His standards for living through 4 "sensitive times" in your child's day. Using these 4 "sensitive times" to their fullest can build a foundation of trust and hope that will give your child the strength he or she needs to make godly choices, and to become a faithful man or woman of God! Here are some ideas to strengthen your child's gender identity!

*"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon 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**. 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."* Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

## When you sit at home...

*(during meal times)*

- Compliment your child as often as possible!
- Talk about God's unique creation of males and females.
- Pray for and with your child.
- Share a scripture about God's focus on our "heart."
- Talk about your own challenges regarding feelings, etc.
- Ask your child about his/her feelings (likes, dislikes, dreams, etc.).
- Talk about God's pleasure re: the uniqueness of people's talents, interests, etc.
- Engage in an activity that frees emotional expression (art, singing, etc.).
- Reinforce the fact that you love your child just the way he/she is!



## When you walk along the road...

*(in the car or just spending time)*

- As you drive or walk, talk about your own feelings.
- Share a scripture about God's love with your child.
- Go walking together and talk about the fun of being a boy or a girl.
- Reinforce your child's unique interests and abilities.
- Say things like, "It's wonderful that God loves us just the way we are!"
- Talk about how to not compare ourselves to others; and to serve God only.
- Do something that your child likes to do and reinforce your love for him/her.
- Say things like, "I'm so glad God gave me a (boy or girl) like you!"



## When you lie down...

*(at bed time)*

- Read a story with your child that illustrates God's love.
- Summarize the day's blessings, and thank God for them.
- Hug and hold your child closely as you read, talk, and pray.
- Sing a peaceful worship song together.
- Talk about the day's times of challenge. Reinforce God's presence.
- Say things like, "It's not easy being a (boy or girl), sometimes."
- Discuss God's balanced wisdom in creating boys and girls.
- Talk about God's use of both men and women in the Bible.
- Pray together with your child. Thank God for His peace, care, and creation.



## When you get up...

*(in the morning)*

- Greet your child with a warm hug and loving smile, and affirm that you are so glad to be with him/her today!
- Affirm God's pleasure with who your child is!
- Pray with your child and ask God for help in being a strong boy/girl today.
- Enjoy a good breakfast together and talk about God's love and presence.



## Be An Example

*Let your child learn by watching you!*

- If confused about something, talk about it, read God's Word and pray.
- Talk about God's presence in your day.