

Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

Picture your child developing spiritually into the man or woman you long for him or her to become. What would that look like? What kind of person would he be? What spiritual disciplines would be incorporated into her life? How would she handle trials and serve others? What would his prayer life be like? How would he or she rely on Scripture?

Write a few sentences to describe your child's spiritual life as you hope it will be in his/her adulthood:

*"The soul never thinks without a picture."
Aristotle*

FOUR ATTITUDES

1. Having a relationship with God doesn't mean anything.
2. Having a relationship with God is a good thing.
3. Having a relationship with God should be a priority.
4. Having a relationship with God is the most important thing.

There is no one who is in more of a position to influence our child's relationship with God than we are. No pastor, teacher, coach, counselor, student leader, etc. can replace us!

Strategy: Programming to partner with parents.

"Fully equipped man of God."

Questions to remind you that you are the one who has the most potential to turn the **spiritual dial** in the lives of your kids ...

1. What Do I Want Them To **Become**?

Picture, vision, with the end in mind; be careful not to define this in terms of performance. It's all about relationship!

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."
Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

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Their ability to have hope in an uncertain world is going to be connected to their relationship with a Father who loves them unconditionally. Their hope for a future is going to be connected to the fact that they're anchored to something that is eternal and not temporal.

We must help them learn to navigate through the choices and decisions because they actually believe that God knows best what they should do and who they should become. They trust God and they apply His principles to everyday life.

2. Where Are They Now?

Categories of information ... too much at stake! *Are they stuck spiritually?*

3. How Can I Help Them Take The Next Step?

Do they know how to pray to God? Are they reading God's Word? Memorizing it? Are they involved in personal ministry (to others & in church)? **(e.g. guitar/drums for Joshua)**

Reflection: Where are we in these three areas?

Let's Pray!

Discussion:

1. How did your parents influence your relationship with God?
2. What aspect of God's character did you see in your parents?
3. What do I want my child to become?
4. Where are they now?
5. How can I help them take the next step?
6. Trust in God was a central theme in this teaching. With your child's unique personality in mind, write down 2 or 3 ways you can help your child understand the concept of trust.
