

What does God say to children? What & how should we teach them?



God talks to children

(Bible passages are from the literal majority text - NKJV or SALT/LB-AWT)

God does not say “keep your children happy” – satan says that. Let’s look at what God says about children.

“²⁴ He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.” (Proverbs 13:24)

“²⁸ Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.” (Deuteronomy 12:28)

“¹⁷ Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.” (Proverbs 29:17)

“³ In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.” (Proverbs 14:3)

“³ A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.” (Proverbs 26:3)

“⁹ “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

“¹⁰ Correct/Cast out the sin-driven scoffing attitude, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.” (Proverbs 22:10)

“¹⁶ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” (Deuteronomy 5:16)

“¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. ⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing

service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.” (Ephesians 6:1-8)

“²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.” (Colossians 3:20-25)

“¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. ¹³ But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.” (Ecclesiastes 8:11-13)

“⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

“¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. ² The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all. ³ A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished. ⁴ By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life. ⁵ Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; He who guards his soul will be far from them. ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:1-6)

“¹ Blessed is the man who does not follow or walk in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Psalm 1:1-6)

“¹² I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. ¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.” (1 John 2:12-14)

“¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

¹“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? ⁶But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:1-8)

¹“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. ⁶“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! ⁸If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” (Matthew 18:1-9)

¹⁰“My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. ¹¹If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; ¹²Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; ¹³We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse”-- ¹⁵My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; ¹⁶For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. ¹⁷Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; ¹⁸But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. ¹⁹So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners. ²⁰Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²²“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. ³¹Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³²For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”” (Proverbs 1:10-33)

¹⁵“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. ¹⁶He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, And he who gives to the rich, will surely come to

poverty. ¹⁷ Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; ¹⁸ For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, ¹⁹ So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. ²⁰ Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, ²¹ That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you? ²² Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; ²³ For the LORD will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them. ²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, ²⁵ Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul. ²⁶ Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts; ²⁷ If you have nothing with which to pay, Why should he take away your bed from under you? ²⁸ Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set. ²⁹ Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men." (Proverbs 22:15-29)

⁹ Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words. ¹⁰ Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹ For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you. ¹² Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. ¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell. ¹⁵ My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice--indeed, I myself; ¹⁶ Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things. ¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; ¹⁸ For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off. ¹⁹ Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. ²⁰ Do not mix with winebibbers, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; ²¹ For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. ²² Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. ²³ Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. ²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. ²⁵ Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice. ²⁶ My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. ²⁷ For a harlot is a deep pit, And a seductress is a narrow well. ²⁸ She also lies in wait as for a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men. ²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; ³² At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. ³⁴ Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: ³⁵ "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?" (Proverbs 23:9-35)