

Basic Training | Deuteronomy 11:18-21

When children are brought into this world, they must be trained for the days to come.

There will come a day, where they will need to feed themselves, read & write, manage their money & develop into a productive citizen.

Along this journey, a child needs to be prepared for their spiritual development

There will come a day, that the physical child becomes accountable & begins to rule over the spiritual child.

And so it is, that a child needs to be trained in spiritual things, as well as in physical things.

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

This responsibility belongs to the parents, so let's start with some "Basic Training".

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

The parents, the church & schools should all be working together to train up a child, but it's the primary job of the home to develop the character, both physically & spiritually.

1. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

- † **Ephesians 6:4** - And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- † **Philippians 4:9** - Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

The leader of the home is responsible for training the family spiritually.

2. CONSISTENCY IS KEY

- † **Galatians 6:9** - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

The leader of the home is responsible for keeping the family on track spiritually.



3. REMOVE UNGODLINESS

† **Job 11:14** - If iniquity *be* in thine hand, put it far away, and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

The leader of the home is responsible for protecting the family spiritually.

4. ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

† **Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

The leader of the home is responsible for encouraging the family spiritually.

One of the best ways to train up a family, is FAMILY BIBLE READING.

Start in the Gospel of John & set a consistent time for each night.

- † **Gather around the kitchen table** – Your family should already be eating physical meals around the table. This time of fellowship creates bonds & conversations that will strengthen the family unit. This should already be a time where we are giving thanks to our Creator for what we are going to enjoy physically. If your family is not doing this, it is strongly encouraged in helping to grow a family unit closer to the LORD. Likewise, the family will associate being fed spiritually around the same table where they get fed physically, as they sit at the same table – as part of the family altar.
- † **Open with prayer** – Your children need to see you bow your head & they need to hear you pray. It is ideal for the father to lead the family in this, but if a father is not present in the home, then obviously the mother should take the lead. This does not have to be a long, drawn out prayer – simply thank GOD for your family & the opportunity to look at HIS word together.

Example: *“LORD, thank you for our home. Thank you for the meals that we enjoy at this table. As we prepare to eat spiritual food, may you feed us to grow in the Spirit - in JESUS name.”*

- † **Bible Reading** – Your children need to see you open your Bible & they need to hear you read. As with prayer, the father should take the lead if he is present in the home. Don't worry about children being too young to understand – they are not. Their understanding will develop in time, as the family becomes more committed. For the first week, I would recommend reading one verse for every family member at the table. This keeps time short as a new routine is being set. The second week, double those Bible verses & increase them each week until you have worked up to a chapter each night. I would not read more than a single chapter, to keep children from getting restless.
- † **Discussion** – Talk about what you read & ask each person what they learned or what they remembered.



- † **Closing with prayer** – At the conclusion of the reading, go around the table & ask each person: “What are you thankful for?”. After everyone has contributed, then ask each person: “What would you like to pray about?”. After everyone has contributed, the head of the home should close in prayer, lifting each request up to the LORD. It is recommended to keep a family prayer journal. You can log the prayer requests & you can note when they are answered.

Example: ***“LORD, thank you for this time we’ve spent as a family. (Pray for each request mentioned specifically). May you bless our home & may we continue to love each other & appreciate each other – in JESUS name.”***

- † **The Weeks Ahead** – After several weeks, when everyone is getting settled into the new routine, it will be appropriate to allow someone else to read or to take turns from verse to verse. It will also be appropriate to allow them to pray, after the head of the home has led the discussion & prayer requests list. It will also be appropriate to allow them to handle the prayer journal & record the updates.

This is a great way to develop a family to become unified around the word of GOD.

If we are going to be the church GOD intends for us to be, we will have to be developing new habits in our homes.

We will have to lead our families with conviction & set a GODLY example for them to follow.

So let’s begin some “Basic Training”

Maybe you’ve been sitting the right example, but your family isn’t participating.

Invite them to join you at the kitchen table & start a new family tradition.

Maybe you haven’t been sitting the best example for your family – today’s a great day to start.

Ask GOD to show you how HE wants you to train up your family.

Maybe no one in your family wants to participate at all.

Make the decision today that you are going to follow HIM regardless.

In time, GOD will make you into the Soldier for HIS Kingdom HE wants you to be & you will eventually be able to lead others by example.

