

When I was a Child

“When I was a child I used to go to Sunday School and my mom used to read the Bible and pray with us.” I cannot tell you how many times I have heard this. These early lessons built a foundation of faith for many people.

Actually research agrees with the importance of children making early decisions for Christ. Some research has found that 75% of those who make a commitment to Christ make this decision by age eighteen. Other research shows that most of these decisions are actually made by children under the age of 12. Wow! No wonder Proverbs 22:6 says “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

I hope this data sheds new light on this scripture. Just as we give our children baby shots to inoculate them from deadly diseases we must give them scripture and training to inoculate them against Satan’s deadly forces.

Some people survive these awful childhood illnesses, but they are left with blindness, scars and other deformities. The same is true for those who do not accept Christ at an early age. Older individuals can choose to accept Christ, but the scars from their ungodly ways of life remain. Actually when adults lead ungodly lives entire families are affected. This spiritual disease infects everyone in the household not vaccinated just like a nasty flu epidemic.

It saddens me that the importance of teaching our children scripture is so neglected. Deuteronomy 6:7-9 instructs us to get God’s commandments into ourselves and our children. Unfortunately, Satan has used the tool of distraction to wage war in all of our homes. Sometimes he just has us way too busy. Although we have the best intentions teaching does not occur and he gains a foothold. Satan also loves for us to major on less important things which may be fun, but keep our children out of church. He wins once again.

As parents we have a great responsibility. Our children should be immersed in God’s word. Bedtime stories should become more scriptural. Children’s Bible stories are not just fairy tales; they are God’s word on a child’s level. They are not pretend; in fact they are very real. Our children should not be more familiar with secular books than they are with God’s word. We should consider giving a Children’s Book of the Bible at every baby shower and remind new parents of their enormous responsibility to impart God’s word.

We must actively support youth ministries in our communities. The Vacation Bible Schools being held this summer are an excellent investment into our youth. All of us should strive to insure that those in our communities know about them and have rides. We can support VBS at another church if our church is not having one or if ours is being held on another date. Together we must get God’s word to our children. We must never believe the devil’s lie that says our small efforts to help further the name of Christ are insignificant.

As churches we must do whatever it takes to get the word into our community's youth. We must look at this salvation data just as a business executive looks at his corporation. Investments must be made where they are most effective, the children.

Our youth ministries are critical. Sunday school teachers and helpers should be highly esteemed. I am thankful for the ministers in the Ohio Valley who have put special great effort into children's ministry such as Pastor Mike and Brenda Amico with the OVCC Kid's Crusade over the last several years.

Tomorrow as you celebrate Independence Day I hope you will thank God for the privilege we have as Americans to teach our children about Christ and to worship freely. Our religious freedom should not be taken for granted. We must acknowledge our dependence on God and teach our children to do the same.

How are we supposed to get America back to God if we don't teach our children about Him? They are the future. May God Bless America!