

PORTICO
KIDS

3 WAYS TO RAISE KIDS WITH INCREDIBLE FAITH





WHO'S JOB IS IT?

Often times it is easy to assume the church will spiritually lead your children so they grow up to have incredible faith. The type of faith that lasts past Sunday and far past their young adult years. Besides, they are the experts, right? God never intended for the Church to be the primary spiritual influence of children. When we look at scripture we see a call for parents to lead their children spiritually.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 tells parents “These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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.” This call to teach and lead children in their spiritual journey was not on the church but on parents.

HOW DO YOU RAISE KIDS TO HAVE FAITH?

It's likely if Jesus has transformed your life, you want the same thing for your children. Your desire is for them to love Jesus, become more like Him, and live their lives in a way that in honouring to Him for the rest of their lives. Many parents desire this type of faith for their children but unfortunately, it can seem like a daunting task. Where do you start? What do you need to know? How do you know you are doing enough? Luckily, raising children with strong faith is not about doing enough or knowing enough. Let me take the pressure off you; your child's salvation is not all on your shoulders. Yes, you have a responsibility to lead them in the ways of the Lord, but God is in control. As parents, you can sow and water the seed for years and years but it is God is in control of the harvest.

Over the course of this Ebook, I hope to give you practical tips for raising kids with incredible faith. We will look at how to be intentional with small moments in your day, how you can see the example with your life and the importance of church community.

1. INTENTIONAL MOMENTS

Your child's spiritual development is important, but not all things that are important need to be complicated. You do not need to be a theologian or a pastor to raise your child to know Jesus. You simply need to be intentional in small moments throughout your week. The book of Deuteronomy speaks about this when parents are commissioned to lead their families spiritually. They are reminded to talk about the commandments "when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deut. 6:7)

You can be intentional in everyday moments, for example: sitting at the kitchen table, walking your kids to school, driving in the car or tucking them into bed. Find ways to point things back to who God is and what He has done. As kids are exploring the world around them you can remind them that God created everything. If your child is hurting, tell them about a time that God helped you. As you make this a habit conversations about faith will soon become commonplace in your home.

One of the ways that we are equipping parents here at PORTICO is by providing parents with resources each week. If you are joining us online or in-person you will receive a short explanation of what your child has learned as well as questions and activities to make intentional moments a breeze.

*"when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."
Deut. 6:7*



2. MODEL FAITH

Children are natural imitators. They will very quickly pick up what you say and what you do, even when you really pray they won't. The best way to raise children of incredible faith is to model incredible faith in your own life. I'm not suggesting anyone goes out and tries to walk on water but there are small things you can do to model faith for your children. Think about the spiritual practices that you hope to see in your child's life and practice them in visible ways at home.

If you want your child to grow up to be a man or woman who reads their Bible daily, prays continually, make an effort every day to model these habits. Find visible places in your home to read your bible and pray. Be intentional to pray together throughout the day for big things and little things. By putting these spiritual practices on display for your children to see you are communicating that God is central in your life and can be central in theirs.

Paul wrote this to the Corinthian church "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). Paul knew that people will do what you do, not what you say. If you want to lead your children to have incredible faith, take steps to increase your own. Continue to find moments of regular prayer, bible reading, worship, and fasting. As you take steps to grow in your faith, your children will take notice and desire to do the same.

3. CHURCH COMMUNITY

God created us to be in community; we are better together. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another". Having a strong faith community around you and your children is one way to raise your kids to have incredible faith.

For parents, being in a church community provides a support system of like-minded people to help you on your own faith journey. When you can do life with other believers they are able to remind you of God's truths, call you to prayer, and challenge you to grow in your faith.

For Kids, a church community provides them with a place to build lifelong friendships, learn the Biblical foundation of their faith, and hear testimonies of countless believers. Not only will they develop positive peer relationships but they will be introduced to leaders who are committed to seeing them grow and learn. Our leaders work hard to reinforce the spiritual habits that you are teaching them at home.

If you have not yet found your community at PORTICO we would love to help. We have a number of growth groups that we can connect you with other parents who are on this journey with you. We work hard to create an environment both in-person and online where kids are safe and welcomed. Kids are sure to learn, grow and make lifelong friends.

*"As iron
sharpens
iron, so
one person
sharpens
another
Prov. 27:17*

YOU CAN DO IT WE CAN HELP

We know from scripture that God is commissioning parents to be the spiritual leaders of their families. Our Goal at PORTICO kids is to empower, equip and encourage you on this journey. It is our prayer that your children grow up to have incredible faith. We are committing to equipping you to be intentional in every moment, encouraging you to grow in your own faith and creating a safe and welcoming place for your child to grow and learn. You can do it, we are here to help.

If you have questions about any of the programs or resources that we offer please visit portico.cc/kids or contact Kids@porticocanada.ca.





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