

10 Ways You Can Help Your Children Succeed Spiritually

Parents invest heavily in their children, hoping that they can help them succeed in life.

They want to see their children succeed academically, socially, financially and athletically. These are all well and good, but the most important area parents can help their child succeed in is *spiritually*.

Parents are the biggest influence in their child's spiritual life.

That being said, let's look at 10 ways parents can help their children succeed spiritually.

1. **Parents can lead their children to Jesus.** This is where it all begins—helping children understand what it means to follow Jesus. The most important thing parents will ever do for their child is to share the gospel with them. When at all possible, I believe parents should be the ones to lead their child to Jesus. The parents' role is not to push their child to a decision. Nor is it to hold them back. The parents' role is to walk alongside their child and have spiritual conversations about what it means to follow Jesus. As they do this, the Spirit of God will draw the child to salvation at the right time.

If you are looking for a tool to help parents lead their children to Jesus, then check out Starting Point. It has been used by hundreds of parents to lead their children to Jesus. It includes a class that parents attend with their child to clearly share the gospel with them.

2. **Make church a priority.** We live in a day when being a

part of a local body of believers is not a priority for many families. They attend church when it is convenient, but it is not at the top of their priority list.

It is vital that parents bring their children to church faithfully. And by faithfully, I don't mean once a month. If parents really want to make a big impact spiritually, then church must be a weekly priority. At the top of the list. Above sports. Above trips to the lake. Above sleeping in.

3. **Walk the talk.** Children know when parents are not living out what they heard on Sunday. Kids can argue with what you tell them, but they can't argue with what you are living out. Be the real deal. Children don't always do what we tell them, but they never fail to imitate who we are.

This doesn't mean a parent has to be perfect. None is. But it does mean the parent is passionately following Jesus and when they make a mistake, they humbly ask for forgiveness.

4. **Read God's Word.** Have family devotions. Parents should share with their children what God is teaching them through His Word. This is so important. A dusty Bible will not help children succeed spiritually. The Word of God has the power to help children succeed spiritually. But it must be released into their life.

5. **Prayer.** Parents should pray for their children. Parents should pray with their children. Parents should teach their children how to pray.

Children must have prayer to succeed spiritually. Prayer will deepen their relationship with God and help sustain their spiritual walk.

6. **Get your child connected to a leader at church.** I have

found that normally God, in addition to a child's parents, will bring a caring leader into a child's life. I look back at my children's lives and in both of my sons' journeys, God brought a leader into their life who reinforced what we were trying to see accomplished in their spiritual journey.

It may be a small group leader or a young adult or a godly deacon or a youth pastor whom God sends to help you see your child succeed spiritually.

7. Focus on relationship before rules. You've heard this statement before:

"Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

This is so true. Rules are important. But relationship must come first if you want kids to listen and obey what you are asking them to do.

When you focus on relationship, it opens the heart of a child to receive what you are trying to convey to them.

8. Take the long look. Encourage parents to sit down and make a list of who they want their child to be when they graduate from college. What kind of character do they want their child to have? What do they want their child to believe? What do they want their child's relationship with God to look like? What do they want their child to know about God and the Bible?

Then parents can take the list they have made and focus on bringing those things into their child's life as they grow up.

9. Teach them to establish their own walk with God. As children grow, parents should begin to encourage their children to develop their own spiritual disciplines. Can you imagine a 12-year-old still sitting in a high chair

and eating baby food? That wouldn't be healthy, right? The goal of every parent should be to teach their child how to feed themselves spiritually.

Spiritually it should be the same way. Parents should help their children establish their own walk with God. The older they get, the more they should walk with God themselves. This doesn't mean that you stop praying for your child when they get older; it simply means that you teach them to become the primary source of their own spiritual growth.

10. Celebrate their spiritual milestones. Milestones are markers on a child's spiritual journey. These are celebration points in the decisions a child makes. Some examples are:

–Parent and child dedication.

–Bible presentation.

–Faith commitment.

–Baptism.

–Elementary graduation and transfer over to middle school ministry.

When you celebrate these milestones, it makes a huge impact in the child's spiritual life. You could equate them to hitting a home run. It can be a game-changer for the child's spiritual journey. {eoa}

To read more about raising kids with a spiritual foundation, check out this new e-book for only \$: Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy.

Dale Hudson is a ministry builder. As a children's pastor, he has helped build some of the largest and fastest-growing children's ministries in the country. At Cross Church, he led the children's ministry to double in size. At Central

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