

9 Things I Will Teach My Son About God

As a Christ follower, you most likely will do everything you can to raise your child in the ways of the Lord. Still, your children are always going to have questions.

That's why I want to share with you these nine things that I will teach my son about God:

1. It's OK to have doubts. Growing up I was always indirectly taught by others to never question God's ways, nor should I doubt His existence or all-mighty power. But the older I became, the more questions I had about God. It was as if doubting was sought as complete disbelief, which in my case was not true at all.

The act of doubting is part of our human nature and an indirect connection with the fall of man. Doubt has been embedded into our inner-being as humans. It's a natural state. My doubts actually kickstarted my campaign towards becoming closer to God. A lot of things didn't seem to make sense to me, and my doubts are what led me to begin studying more. Studying God's Word more brought me closer to Him, and being closer to Him gave me peace and understanding about who He was.

I want to teach my son that it's OK to doubt God, have questions and not completely understand everything God does. God is big enough to handle our doubts, our questions, and our concerns. He's not afraid of them. He wouldn't be God if that was so. I don't want my son to be afraid to question what's happening or wave his fist a little. God can handle it. I want to teach my son to let it all out and get honest with God about what he's really feeling. Why? Because I trust God to combat his doubts with pure and vibrant understanding.

2. God's ways are not ours. If God answered all of our prayers the way that we saw fit, our world would be one scary place to live in. Just like any loving parent in this world, God seeks what is best for his children and will constantly contradict our expectations for our own benefit. He knows what's best and His ways will always be grander than our own. I want my son to learn that we must let go of our plans and instead grab hold of the will of God. I know this concept is easier said than done, but it will always be worth it in the long run.

God's plans are perfect because God himself is a perfect Lord. He himself is the almighty assurance of life, guiding us towards the greater good of life – His will. Although God is faithful in His answering of prayer, we cannot expect him to answer every prayer to our exact measurements. Faith is trusting God even when things don't make sense, and that includes a prayer that we feel may be unanswered or at the wrong time. I want my son to understand that God works in His perfect timing and not ours.

3. There will be people who disagree with you. Lord willing, my son will choose a personal relationship with God and not everyone is going to understand why he chose it. There are people in this world who will disagree with his decision to follow Jesus, and there are even people in this world who are killed because of this controversial faith. But although we may find opposition, I want my son to remember that God will always be by our side to provide us with comfort and peace.

Temporary acceptance from the world will never be able to outweigh the importance of eternal acceptance from God. Although he may be mocked and ridiculed, he can stand tall knowing God's love is on his side regardless of the opposition that faces him. His destiny is in the hands God, not the opinions of man.

4. God is perfect, but His followers are not. Growing up I had

a lot of resentment towards God, but what I failed to realize is that my resentment was due to the actions of some of His followers, not Him. Not everyone who claims to love God is perfect, but we can always rely on God for perfection inside and out. We're human. We make mistakes. We aren't always going to do things right. I want my son to learn how to separate his frustration towards Christians from that of God, understanding that He doesn't always have perfect followers.

I want my son to understand the difference between God, the perfect creator, and His creation, the imperfect who have a great need for a perfect savior.

5. You're always welcome home. No matter how lost you and I may get in this life, God has an open door policy that always provides us with an opportunity to come back home. God's love always has a vacancy. We've all made mistakes, but the beauty of the cross is that Jesus died for them. All of them. Your sins have been wiped clean, and your heart has been renewed by the grace of Jesus himself. Your mistakes do not define you. Your failures don't have to haunt you. Your mishaps don't need to be accounted for. God forgives you for your mistakes, even if you have yet to forgive yourself. I want my son to know that he is always welcome back into the arms of God, no matter how dark his life ever becomes.

6. Church is people, not a building. I want to teach my son to rethink the way culture has defined the definition of church, as it is not simply just a building that one attends on a weekly basis but instead who one is on a daily basis. I want my son to take ownership of his faith and be a living example of Christ. We are the church, and we are called to reflect the image of Jesus in our everyday lives.

When we take this reality to heart, every aspect of our lives then becomes a mission field, a space to worship in, and a realm to shine our light in. The world is our canvas and the Holy Spirit wants to use us to create a masterpiece known

as *The Great Commission*. I want my son to see the church as more than just what cultural Christianity views it as. I want him to see the beauty of God's church being practiced through everyday people like himself.

7. Theology matters because God matters. I desire for my son to understand the importance of theology, his comprehension of God, and knowing why he believes what he believes. Yearning to know more about God will come naturally as he grows deeper in relation with Him. Taking the time to study God's Word through a theological mindset will help open his heart and soul to a much deeper appreciation of his being.

Theology alone will not suffice, and nor will passion by itself. I want my son to see the seriousness of learning more about the God that I pray he chooses to call, Lord. Theology matters because God matters.

8. Life isn't always going to be easy. The Christian life isn't always going to be easy or without trial, but God's promises us He will be alongside us the entire way. So many people think that just because they believe in Jesus means everything is going to be flawless and perfect. This really isn't the case at all. You may have a relationship with Jesus, but this doesn't mean life is going to stop moving forward, tough circumstances are going to cease to exist, or rough times will never be a possibility.

Even though Jesus never said life would be easy, He did say He would be there for you in your times of need. The message of the Gospel isn't that life will be perfect, but that in its imperfection we have a perfect and flawless Savior.

9. Not everything has a black and white answer. When putting our lives in the hands of God, we must be ready to not understand everything that God does, why He does it, and how long He will do it for. Some things only have one answer: to trust God even if it doesn't make sense. It may seem like a

shallow and cliché response, but it's actually quite the opposite. Trusting God amid our confusion is a spiritually deepening experience.

God won't always give us clear and crisp directions. I want my son to trust in God for that which he cannot see or comprehend with his own mind. I want my son to use God as his compass in life, directing him every step of the way.

Jarrid Wilson is a husband to Juli, dad to Finch, pastor, author, blogger, founder of Cause Roast. He's helping people live a better story. For the original article, visit .

For the original article, visit .