

# TEACHING THE CHILDREN

## 1. WHAT should be the prayer of every parent?

“O my Lord, . . . teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.” **Judges 13:8.**

**NOTE** — This is a part of the prayer of Manoah, the father of Samson.

## 2. How should our children be taught?

“All thy children shall be *taught of the Lord*; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” **Isaiah 54:13.**

## 3. What will happen if a child is not properly instructed?

“A child left to himself *bringeth his mother to shame.*” **Proverbs 29:15.**

## 4. How did Solomon’s parents regard him as a child?

“I was my father’s son, *tender and only beloved* in the sight of my mother.” **Proverbs 4:3.**

## 5. What does Solomon say his father did for him as a child?

“He *taught me also*, and said unto me, *Let thine heart retain my words; keep my commandments, and live.*” **Proverbs 4:4.**

## 6. From what time does David say he himself was taught?

“O God, Thou hast taught me *from my youth.*” **Psalms 71:17.**

## 7. How should all Christian parents bring up their children?

“Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up *in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*” **Ephesians 6:4.**

## 8. How was Moses taught during the days of his early childhood?

*By faith*, under the instruction of a devoted mother. See **Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1–10.**

**NOTE** — The hiding of Moses was at the time when Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had issued a decree that every Hebrew male child should be killed as soon as he was born, to prevent too rapid an increase of the Hebrews. **The second chapter of Exodus** tells the story of the finding of Moses by the king’s daughter, and his being brought up by his own mother employed as a

nurse. She was a woman of faith, and her teaching of Moses was such that after he had been at the Egyptian court till he “was come to years,” he chose to suffer affliction with God’s people rather than to enjoy the honor of succeeding to the throne of Egypt as the adopted heir. He became the leader of God’s people when they escaped from the Egyptian bondage, and after he died, he was raised to life and taken to heaven. See **Hebrews 11:24–26; Jude 9; Matthew 17:1–3.**

### **9. How was Joseph regarded by his father?**

“Israel *loved Joseph* more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age.” **Genesis 37:3.**

**NOTE** — The wonderful record of Joseph’s life, found in **Genesis 37–50**, shows that he lived intimately with his father till he was seventeen years of age. He must have been carefully taught of God also, for in all his marvelous experience as slave, prisoner, and premier of Egypt, he remained true to his heavenly Father, not a single sin being recorded of him to the day of his death.

### **10. How was Esther brought up?**

“He [Mordecai the Jew] brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle’s daughter, when her father and mother were dead.” **Esther 2:7.**

**NOTE** — Mordecai was a man who feared and served God, as is shown by his wise and courageous counsel to Esther, and by his own Christian conduct when the lives of both were at stake in their efforts to save the people of God from destruction while in captivity in Medo-Persia. He undoubtedly taught Esther from childhood to fear and serve God. Otherwise she would not have met the crisis with such fearless courage and such confidence in God.

### **11. After she became queen of Persia, how did Esther show her integrity to God?**

By risking her life to save her own people. “Then Esther bade them [the messengers] return Mordecai this answer: Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my

maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.” **Esther 4:15, 16.**

**12. How early does Paul say Timothy was instructed?**

“*From a child* thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.” **2Timothy 3:15.**

**13. How earnestly should parents teach their children the things of God?**

“Thou shalt teach them *diligently* unto thy children.” “Ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them *when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*” **Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19.**

**14. What reward in this life is promised the faithful mother?**

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” **Proverbs 31:28.**

**15. What beautiful picture of home life is drawn by the psalmist for the father who fears the Lord?**

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the side of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.” **Psalms 128:3, 4.**

**16. What motive will inspire all true parents to faithfulness in teaching their children?**

“That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.” **Psalms 144:12.**

**NOTE** — We often hear the saying, “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” This is not out of keeping with the saying of the wise man, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” **Proverbs 22:6.** No father or mother knows the future of the little child prattling about the home circle. But God knows, as He did in the cases of Moses and Esther and Timothy. Whether it is His purpose for some of our children to rule the world, as did Joseph and Daniel virtually, as prime ministers; or for some of them to “stand before kings,” as did Moses and Esther and Daniel; or for some of them to serve and suffer for the name of

Christ, as did Peter and John and Paul, it is our sacred privilege to teach the children faithfully and diligently during their tender years.