

No. 8 Parents—Teach Your Children to Love Jehovah (Local elder)

Note to speaker:

Present the material, not as counsel, but in a warm, loving manner

WHY TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO LOVE JEHOVAH? (2 min.)

Children do not inherit love for Jehovah; it must be nourished and cultivated

Children today face many challenges, such as coping with low self-worth or peer pressure to experiment with drugs and sex

Parents must teach their children from an early age to love Jehovah and hate what is bad (Ps 97:10)

Teach them how to reason on the possible results, both good and bad, of decisions they will make in life

A desire to please their heavenly Father can be a strong motivation for upright conduct (Pr 27:11)

HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN (6 min.)

Jehovah provides fine direction for teaching children **[Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9]** (w13 8/15 16-17)

Be a good example: Parents, your children are watching you

“Nothing exerts more influence on a child’s life than parental example” (w07 5/15 15 ¶4)

Children should see from your example that serving Jehovah is the best way of life, and they should sense that your love for Jehovah is from the heart (De 6:8)

Parents cannot give what they do not have

God’s laws must first be on *your* heart (De 6:6; Lu 6:40)

Be a teacher: You must inculcate Jehovah’s words in your children

The word “inculcate” means to teach by repetition (De 6:7, ftn.)

Keep your Family Worship program regular, and make it an enjoyable time for all

Jesus reached the heart by using illustrations

This teaching method is especially effective with children

Use the brochure *Teach Your Children* to help them learn about Jehovah from an early age

Other tools include videos tailored for children on jw.org and JW Broadcasting

Be a companion: ‘Speak with your children when you sit with them in your house and when you walk on the road’ (De 6:7)

Spend time with your children as individuals and together as a family, no matter how busy you are

They need your time and attention

Jesus found room in his busy schedule to spend time with children (Mr 10:13, 16)

What a fine lesson for parents!

INTERVIEWS (4 min.)

[Invite two or three young ones (or older ones who set a good example in youth) to relate how their parents helped them to develop love for Jehovah. In keeping with Proverbs 27:2, the speaker should draw out their comments and apply them]

BLESSINGS OF TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN TO LOVE JEHOVAH (2 min.)

It takes time and hard work to teach your children to love Jehovah

Be assured that Jehovah appreciates and notices your efforts (Ps 5:12)

The end result for you and your children is well worth it **[Read Proverbs 20:7]**

Review question: How can parents teach their children to love Jehovah?

Answer: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; be an example, a teacher, and a companion for your children

We warmly commend parents who cherish the privilege and responsibility of teaching their children

As you continue to be an example, teacher, and companion for your children, Jehovah will bless the efforts you make in helping your children to love him with all their heart

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)