

Lesson 11

Chapter 10 - Your Heritage and Appendix B - Teach Your Children

Read chapter 10 and Appendix B then work through the following questions.

1. Write out two Scriptures that emphasize the importance of teaching children to memorize Scripture.

1. Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 11:18-19; (Psalm 78:1-8)
2. Jesus rebuked His disciples for trying to keep children away from Him and commanded them to **let** little children come to Him: Mark 10:13-16; Matt 18:1-4. How better can we bring children to Jesus than by helping them to memorize His very words?

2. How many reasons can you find in these chapters or from your own experience that emphasize the importance of starting children to memorize Scripture at an early age rather than waiting until they are "old enough to understand"?

1. Do you understand everything you memorize in Scripture?
2. According to Mark 10:13-16 God has given children an inherent desire to know Him. "*you must let little children come to Me—never stop them!*". (Phillips) or "Don't keep them away." The deduction has to be that they'll come if we just don't stop them.
3. God has instilled a thirst for learning in the minds of very young children. Their minds are like sponges. As soon as they learn to talk their favorite word is "Why?" Obviously they are programmed for learning. Why would we keep them from memorizing God's literal Word when the ground is so fertile? We have had instances where Children as young as 2 years old and even younger have learned Scripture just from listening to their older siblings memorize-ing. (Their lingo may have been difficult to understand, but there was no doubt about what they were doing.) They love to learn.
4. Young children are accepting. They are at an age where they have not yet learned skepticism. It is easy for them to receive the simple teachings of Scripture as the pure truth it is without some of the reservations that so often plague older children and adults.
5. Scripture says that it is adults who need to become like children, not children who need to be like adults.
6. Young children do not have to unlearn negatives (as many adults do) in order to accept the positive Scriptural teaching.
7. True, young children will not be able to grasp the full substance of Scripture they memorize but what they learn as children will impact their entire life. Scripture is a powerful tool for the Holy Spirit to use as he inspires them with a fuller meaning as they grow.

3. a) As you approach the subject of memorizing God's Holy Word with your children why is it important for you to be enthusiastic about the concept and approach it with genuine excitement?

You are not going to be able to lead your children beyond your own level. Your attitude will be contagious. Children will quickly pick up on your approach and follow suite. If you see memorizing Scripture as a dull, laborious command rather than an exciting adventure, you won't fool them.

b) If you yourself, are not excited about memorizing Scripture, what should you do?

Because this is the work of the Holy Spirit, you should commit it to Him. Ask Him to reveal to you the reasons for your negativism and create in you a heart that is eagerly receptive to His Words. You may find helpful Scripture references and concepts in Chapters 8 (Prepare Your Mind for Action), and Chapter 11 (God Speaks). Or, if they apply Chapter 6 (I Can't Memorize) or Chapter 7 (Memorize Scripture? I Don't Have Time!). Also it may be helpful to review some of the testimonies in Appendix C.

4. Why would it be important to start children with a short chapter such as Psalm 1 or Psalm 100?

We all like to win. Children especially. It is important for them to accomplish their first assignment as easily as possible. Having this victory will give them confidence in the next step of something longer.

5. As you prepare, consider:

a. What version will you use? _____

b. What chapter will be their first? _____

c. What incentives will appeal to them? _____

d. This will be a spiritual battle and involve spiritual warfare. Who can you enlist to stand with you in prayer as you begin this journey with your children? _____

6. What factors are important to keep in mind a you proceed?

Always be prepared for spiritual warfare.
Build Slowly according to your children's capabilities.
Teach your children to pray for divine insight
Teach them to meditate and delight in Scripture as they learn and review what they have memorized.
Take breathers.
Have incentives, short term and long term.
Watch for burnout.

7. Prayerfully read Deuteronomy 11:18-19 and 30:19-20. Ask the Lord to give you His mind and His wisdom. Ask Him to blaze the trail for you as you guide your children, your heritage in this wonderful adventure.