

LIVING FOR JESUS

Teaching your children to “love the Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7) does not need to be an onerous task and another thing to add to your ever-expanding to-do list. One of the main ways your child will learn about God is by watching how you live your everyday life. Are you loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? How is your relationship with the Lord going? Are you spending time daily in His Word letting it permeate you richly and shape who you are becoming and how you live? Can you honestly say you are closer to the Lord now than the same time last year? Are the Fruit of the Spirit ripening in you in greater measure? Do you spend your time on hobbies and entertainment that honor or dishonor the Lord? Your relationship with God is of utmost importance and will have eternal significance in your family heritage.

Here are some ideas of what it means to Live for Jesus:

- Make it a priority to spend time with Him so He can teach you how to live. This of course will take time out of your day. Although we are all busy, I have no doubt that there is something you can eliminate - ask the Lord if you can't think of anything. It just takes discipline. And it is hard to be disciplined, but doable.
- Share with your children the thoughts that go through your mind as you make daily decisions on how you will spend your time, money, or how you will respond to an annoying person at the grocery store. Life will give you plenty of opportunities to see if Jesus truly is Lord over your tongue! You do not need to model perfection, just live honestly.
- If you yelled to another driver in front of your kids, be honest with yourself as to whether this is something Jesus would approve of. Trust me, Jesus is not trying to take the “fun” out of your life; you will be more peaceful and less stressed if you do not let your temper get the better of you. He knows what is best for us. As soon as you figure out that you made a mistake, make a point of talking about it with your kids - “That was rude of me to yell at the driver. Jesus doesn't want me to do that, and I can now see that I should have been more understanding and gracious to their small mistake. I can't apologize to the driver since they are no longer here, so instead, God, I ask you to bless them.”
- If you lost your temper at your child, humble yourself and go back to them to apologize - “I am sorry I lost my temper. I hurt your feelings, and set a bad example for you. I know God doesn't want me to act that way, and I don't either. I asked Him to forgive me, and now I am asking you to forgive me.”
- There are so many disturbing things going on in the world right now, and it at times seems overwhelming. Don't forget that God is still God and in control. He has a plan and purpose, and it is unfolding. When you or your kids see and or express distress at these events, remind yourselves out loud that “God is in control. God, we lift these events up to You and trust that You have everything in Your hands and love us all.” Speak faith-filled words of trust, and not fear-filled words.
- Make a point of memorizing Scripture, and let it fill your mind, prayers and words.
- Listen to and sing praise and worship songs to the Lord. Fill your life with God honouring music as you go about your daily tasks at home, in the car, etc..
- Be grateful in everything. Whether you “feel” grateful or not, give thanks to God in all things.

I think you get the picture. These examples may sound oversimplified, but they are the honest truth. God knows the best way to live. Follow Him. In order to follow Him you need to find out how He wants you to live - the only way you can do this is to get to know the Bible, and ask God to guide you.