

ParentPause

Encouragement for Parents of Preschoolers

December



Have you ever wondered why God didn't give you more instructions in the Bible on how to handle a child throwing a temper tantrum in the grocery store?

Though it may not directly have to do with parenting as much as some other portions of Scripture, one great verse for parents to keep in mind is: *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up (Galatians 6:9, NLT)*. Parenting is a walk of faith in God, being entrusted with these growing little people that we love so much. A lot of the work that we do goes unnoticed and may not bear immediate results in your child, but it isn't about results — it's about your faithfulness to follow God in how you love Him and love and shepherd the children in your care.

God has also given us the ultimate example of parenting — Himself. And if we keep in mind the way our heavenly Father handles the issues in our lives, we'll have a clearer idea of how to handle challenges with our children as well.

The Bible gives us a great perspective on how we can reflect this truth in our parenting. How does God respond when we sin? With grace rooted in love. He understands who we are and is immensely creative in helping us learn to see right from wrong. He doesn't tolerate our sin without moving us to change, because He loves us, He expects us to be growing into more of His likeness.

As a parent, we can respond the same way when our children sin — with grace rooted in love. Gently correct, discipline when necessary, and constantly show love and grace. We can remember how often we fall short of God's standard and how patient our heavenly Father is with us. This can help us have perspective as we treat our children (and ourselves) with a reflection of the patience and grace that God has shown us.

ABOUT YOUR CHILD



EXPLAINING CHRISTMAS TO YOUR CHILD

Bible References: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20; 1 John 4:10

Parents, remind your child that Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Point to the people in the picture and ask your child questions. (For example, point to Mary and ask: "Who is this? Who told her she would have a baby?") Read 1 John 4:10 with your child and talk about how God loves us and sent His Son to be our Savior. Review the other Scripture passages as needed.

Color Your Christmas Ornament

Challenge: Let your child color the Christmas ornament on this page as a reminder that Jesus came to save us from our sins! Add stickers or glitter glue for even more fun! Then cut out the ornament and use a hole punch to make a hole at the top to insert a ribbon. Display the ornament on your Christmas tree or elsewhere in your home, and review the true meaning of Christmas with your child several times leading up to the holiday.

Bonus Challenge:



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