



What Children Need

Proverbs

- Children should bring **joy** and gladness to parents - this is God's design. vs. 23:24-25
- But the truth is, many times they bring unspeakable **grief** (10:1), shame (19:26), and reproach (19:26).
- In the book of Proverbs, God shows us clearly what children need, if they are to be a source of joy and not grief to us.

Children need:

1. **Training** - vs. 22:6

- Training indicates that you have a **plan** - an active and positive goal.
- The goal of Christian parents ought to be that their children grow up to be **godly**, not just good.

2. **Correction** - vs. 22:15

- According to the Bible, there is something within every child's heart that a parent needs to reach and **drive** out - **foolishness**.
- How do we accomplish this? It's through the **rod** of correction.

3. **Direction - vs. 22:15**

- Our goal as parents doesn't stop with driving out the foolishness - we want to replace it with **wisdom**.
- Kids **need** clear direction - they need boundaries. vs. 1:8

4. **Instructions - vs. 31:1**

- God's design is that the **parents** be the primary source of influence and instruction in a child's life.
- As you seek to instruct, here are some practical suggestions:
 - a. Teach your child to accept and fulfill responsibility.
 - b. Instill in your child a strong **work** ethic.
 - c. Use **fun** as a reward for hard work, but not a way of life.
 - d. **Limit** their TV and video game intake and encourage them to use their minds (drawing, reading, exploring, painting, coloring, etc.).
 - e. Never **allow** uncontrolled emotional outbursts and tantrums.
 - f. Insist that your child be **tidy** and neat.
 - g. Help your child to establish proper priorities in life.
 - h. Be an **example** to your child.