

# Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 10 am

## Teaching children

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Welcome to all.

Opening Scripture and prayer

Hymn MP 708 To God be the Glory

Scripture Psalm 119:1- 24 (page 617)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Children's talk Do you worry about: Breakfast, clothes, bed, home, school, Mt 18:3

Chorus Jesus love me (original by Anne Bartlett Warner 1820-1915)

Notices

Missionary focus

Prayer and share time.

Reading 2 Tim 3:14-17 (page 1197)

Psalm 78:1-8 (page 589)

Hymn MP 1217 The Power of the Cross

Sermon: "Train a child in the way he should go"

Hymn CH 664(NCH704) Come thou font of every blessing

Closing Prayer

[Sermon Index Database](#)

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In our Sunday preaching we have been working through the letter to the Philippians, we have been looking at key events in the Bible, the last time it was the sacrifice of Isaac. We have also been going through the fruit of the Spirit.

With the end of this last streams I feel prompted to include some topical preaching, that is the taking of themes rather than Bible passage exposition, that is taking a text and opening it up like like a fig.

So we will look to see what the Bible says on a particular subject. If there is a subject that has been much on your mind and you think a sermon on it would be useful for us all then do say

Today we look at teaching children. This church believes in the importance of teaching children.

1a

## Prayer and Exordium

A man was on his way to the gallows to be hung. His last request was that he could say a word to his mother. She was to be seen in the crowd with tears running down her face. The people looked on as the man went over for that farewell word and kiss goodbye. But as the man put his mouth to her ear there was an almighty scream. He had sunk his teeth into her earlobe. "I would not be here now and about to die, if you had brought me up properly".

How many are now in prison because their parents never taught them properly. Prison is a miserable way to live out this short life, but to end up in an endless Hell is catastrophic. Don't teach children the good laws of God and – barring divine intervention - that is where they will end up. The Devil wants as many people to be there as possible, I'd say he'll be seen to have been successful! This is serious, x2. We must teach children the ways of God, x2. You and I are to do all we can to instill in every child a desire for Holiness and Godliness. Not just to save them from grief upon grief in this life, but to save them from God's right judgment against sin which will surely come upon all who have ever walked this earth, old and young.

My mind goes to a woman interviewed on TV, she was the mother of a perpetrator of knife crime, of which the West Midlands has now the dubious privilege of being the worst place in Britain. "Why isn't the government doing more to stop this" she said, and the studio response was to nod their heads in agreement. "Not enough is being done!"

Yet this, and the previous generation of parents, have collectively abandoned the teaching of the word of God to children. They have disregarded the commandments such as "you shall not kill" and that no-one will be held guiltless who does. How many children are taught of the sanctity of life, the holiness of God, the depravity of the human heart and the day of judgment to come. Yes there will be an accounting for every man, woman, boy and girl - and God is watching. Did that young lad know that **those who live by the sword will die by the sword**? We are reaping what we have sown. How foolish we are.

We are going to look two women Eunice and Lois, mothers who had a very different view.

We are going to see the example of Timothy who was taught the scriptures when he was young, and after hearing the gospel was changed. He found peace with God and lived a life in this world that honoured the Lord. He is now in God's presence and awaiting the new perfect world.

1b

How? Why? Because **from infancy** he had **known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make him wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 2Ti 3:15

How did he learn the scriptures?

Paul says in 1:5 **I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.** 2Ti 1:5

In other words it was through his mother and grandmother.

What of his father? Luke records in Ac 16:1 that the Apostle Paul **came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.** It was a split family **Yes a split family as so many are today. A disunited, a disharmonious family.**

Here one parent is desiring the things of God, the other is from another religion and not interested in the things of God, and intrinsically hostile to God.

But by God's grace many who are opposed to God - are in fact quite ambivalent about what their children are taught - and do not oppose others teaching their children. **That is quite common with the parents of our Crusaders Sunday children. The parents for the most part will not come here, but they are happy for their children to come.**

Some parents stop their children coming – The Lord will not hold them guiltless for this - **Do not hinder them** said our Lord, woe to those who do!

Timothy's Greek father did not stop Eunice from teaching young Timothy the scriptures.

So having a husband or wife who is not with you in the faith does not necessarily mean you are stopped from teaching the scriptures to your children.

In most cultures, it is harder for the woman who want to do this than the man. If your husband is not with you in this, you must still do what you can to bring your children up in the most Holy Faith. It is too important to be neglected.

Timothy's mother was a Jewess and as such was in a very privileged position: **Theirs the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, for ever praised!** Ro 9:3-5. Paul earlier says this should be acted on **“Now if you call yourself a Jew; .. if you know his will, ...are instructed by the law; are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the**

**embodiment of knowledge and truth— you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?** Ro 2:17-21 Paul said this because many did nothing with it **Like the home filled with unopened parcels, or full of ointments never used.**

⇒ **There are those here who hear so much, know so much, and yet have not applied it, not done anything with it.**

Eunice did do something, she acted on it, she accompanied it by with faith, she appropriated it, she made it her own.

Timothy's **mother** was described as **a Jewess and a believer**, she was not only Jewish but had combined what she has been privileged to know as a Jew - with faith, a living faith. It is described as a **sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, now lives in you also.** 2Ti 1:5. The faith of Lois, Eunice and Timothy are equated - even though Lois and Eunice were Jews not Christians, they lived by faith, as Abraham did and were therefore were true children of Abraham as Timothy was, - as every true Christians is.

### *His Jewish side taught*

Eunice was indeed **a teacher of infants.** These two women taught their children. Lois taught her children one of whom was Eunice, and Eunice taught her children one of whom was Timothy.

They obeyed the Lord who commanded them to do so.

De 4:9 **be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.**

Dt 6:1,2 **These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe .... so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.**

**“God had said: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.**

**Impress them on your children. x2 Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.”** De 6:4-9

**7 Impress them on your children.**

They are reminded of this again in Dt 11: **Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.** De 11:19

Throughout day, in your daily life with your children let the scriptures be the air you breathe, let God's way be woven into every conversation.

Of course, to teach you have to know the scriptures yourself.... That is why it says just before **Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.** De 11:18

The Jews taught their children the holy Scriptures. It is a maxim with the Jews that when a child was five years of age, it was proper to teach him the Scriptures. Timothy's mother being a Jewess, trained him up early in the knowledge of these writings, with which he became very conversant. And when he heard the gospel from Paul this seed sown in his heart, - under divine influence - bore fruit. So is the example to all of us as Christian parents.

The Jews taught in the home but also together De 31 says **Assemble the people—men, women and children, —so that they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD our God.** De 31:12,13

These women had put in the work, Eunice had brought up young Timothy to know the scriptures – and now he was saved.

**Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.** Pr 22:6

Remember the relay race? We are baton carriers – we receive it – we hang on to it, & don't drop it – and we make sure it is passed on safely.

Let me remind you of the words we heard from Psalm 78: **“what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us, .... we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.... so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. And why?**

**Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”** Ps 78:3-7

*As Christians we are to do the same today*

We have the same scriptures – in fact we have the completed scriptures, it is even easier for us now. Let us take our responsibility seriously. **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** Eph 6:4

3a

Mums you are not off the hook! **Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.”** Prov 1:8-9

It is the duty of every parent, both parents, not the state, not even the church but you as parents. Children are entrusted to you – and you have responsibility for them.

Timothy **“you have known the holy Scriptures”** Here are some reasons why children should know and memorise the scriptures: It is *in* the scriptures that God speaks, this is where you hear the voice of God, here are the lively oracles of God, here is divine revelation. The Bible is God's word, nothing else. For all

⇒ **One theologian once compared the Bible to a pool deep enough at its centre for the greatest intellect to be submersed, and shallow enough at its edges that a child may drink safely. - and it is vital to:**

- Help them in resisting temptation. As Jesus did
- Help them make wise decisions in their lives.
- To strengthen them when under life's stresses.
- To comfort them when they are sad.
- Help them to speak to others - to help them defend the truth amongst their peers, and in the classroom.
- To Honour the Lord and
- To avoid judgment

1. Reading and memorizing scriptures, the use of cards.
2. Different ways: Catechism,
3. Getting them to answer questions in their books, Bible comprehension.

**Suzanna Wesley – was the mother of John and Charles, both known for their labours in the great Awakening. Suzanna Wesley had seventeen children, but is said she gave each of them one day of special attention and training per month. From John's writings we know that both he and his brother Charles Wesley viewed their mother as a vital source of inspiration and encouragement for their ministries.**

17 children!! “I don't have any children,” Or “It's too late they are all grown up. Do you have grandchildren, nephews or nieces which you can influence?

Lady in Holland buy Christian Bible's / books for her grandchildren

⇒ Pray for the reaching of children here – for Crusaders at 3pm and the Friday youth at 6:30pm. Outreach Sunday schools –

3b

⇒ The effect of the Sunday school movement – the biggest single moral influence on our nation.

But why is all this really important?

To what end? **Which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.**

The Bible speaks of people who either have God or do not, are either alive in Christ or dead in sin, it is very black and white. All are equally lost and those who are saved are equally saved – by Christ alone - not of myself.

Yet the Bible speaks of those who are closer, **you are not far from the Kingdom of God** said Jesus to one man. How is that? Because he had the word of God in his heart, that man knew the word of God. that man is closer – but also to be J

**Are you doing something with what you know? have you gone to Jesus the Saviour? Are you saved? Have you repented of your sin?**

Bible knowledge is not to help you avoid trouble in this life – but to take you into eternity **through faith in Christ Jesus**. All Scripture is a signpost to Jesus

John Newton the Minister at Olney and Hymn writer of Amazing Grace was once a rogue and a slave trader who lived a debauched life. Until one day a storm on a transatlantic crossing brough him to fear imminent death. Scriptures came to mind - and from where? These were those planted by his mother in his heart as a young child – they surfaced - he called out to the Lord - and was saved. All this had its root in infancy - by the faithful teaching given by his mother.

Our action – or inaction in this area is crucial. It is the difference between heaven and hell. If you know what is ahead then you must warn others, especially those who listen - and that certainly means children.

One Gideon Prayer letter had this poem written by unsaved person:

My friend I stand in judgement now, and feel that you're to blame somehow  
On earth I walked with you by day, and never once did you show the way  
You knew the Saviour's truth and glory, and never once did you tell His story  
My mind then was very dim, you could have led me safe to Him  
Though we lived together here on earth, you never told me of this second birth  
And now I stand before eternal hell, because of Heaven's glory you did not tell

⇒ Will your children chide you one day, - and bite your ear off?

Saving children from the Day of Judgment is drastically important.

The Lord tells Ezekiel in ch. 33 **if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own**

4a

**head. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.** If you know the truth - then you are that watchman!

Let us make sure we **Train a child in the way he should go**

⇒ “Prone to wander yes I am” are the words of the hymn we will sing in a moment. We are all prone to wander, and that wandering starts in infancy

The toddler finding his feet, directing him which way to go and helping him along, you go that way

Children are like those toy cars I used to line up and send off in a particular direction which invariably went off course. We constantly need to redirect them so they don't hit anything.

Children do not know how to avoid the problems in the world nor find the Way to heaven – they need your help to be set in the right direction and constant be nudged back into the right way **“Train a child in the way he should go”**

The course set when young will have eternal consequences. Let us not neglect the teaching of all who will hear, especially the children in our families.

⇒ You must teach them early, you must teach them well, you must give time.

Many years ago in a Moscow theatre, matinee idol Alexander Rostovzev was converted while playing the role of Jesus in a sacrilegious play entitled Christ in a Tuxedo. He was supposed to read two verses from the Sermon on the Mount, remove his gown, and cry out, “Give me my tuxedo and top hat!” But as he read the words, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted,” he began to tremble. Instead of following the script, he kept reading from Matthew 5, ignoring the coughs, calls, and foot-stamping of his fellow actors.

Finally, recalling a verse he had learned in his childhood in a Russian Orthodox church, he cried, “Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!” (Luke 23:42). Before the curtain could be lowered, Rostovzev had trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. Why Christians Sin, J. K. Johnston, Discovery House, 1992, p. 121

**I close with a prayer by Suzanna Wesley** for her children **You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray. Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray, make us careful to watch against it, and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered. In order to perform this duty aright, (that is teaching children) grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper, and sincerity to pray for your assistance. Amen. END**

4b