



Use This Framework to Shape Your Kid's Heart

Remember the Word is like a seed. Plant it in their hearts and allow God to water it and bring fruit from it (1 Cor. 3:7). Here's a framework for you to build upon when [imparting virtues](#) into your kids:

Love

If there is anything we could teach, it's love. Jesus commanded us to love one another.

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 15:12 NLT

How do we do that? First, [love is a choice](#). Next, teach your child that when we love one another, it means we are putting the other person first. When we love each other, the world will see that we belong to Jesus (John 13:34-35).

Peace

Peace is wonderful, right? My husband makes it a conviction to live by the instructions found in Ephesians 4:2-3.

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. Ephesians 4:2-3 NLT

How can we practice this? Teach the children that when a disagreement arises among them, endeavor to keep the peace. Work diligently at it. Instead of arguing, teach them to choose to be a peacemaker.

Verse two admonishes us to forbear one another in love. Explain to them that means we put up with the other person's annoyances.

Getting Along

As an only child, my husband is often asking me, “Can’t they all just get along?” We all know that kids are naturally selfish. An example of a selfish squabble between your kids is probably not far from your mind. One kid wants to do one thing, the next wants to play something different. Or slightly different. Or not just exactly how *they* want it to be played.

Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.
Philippians 2:3-4 NLT

How do we teach that to them? In that instance, tell them to ask the question, “Is that selfish? Or selfless?” Selflessness can be a huge concept, but it all starts with making them aware.