



THE FAMILY

Since the Creation, the parents (or the family unit) have been responsible for educating their children.

Schools are meant to enrich and widen the scope of education received in the family, not to replace it.

Christian parents must be aware of their responsibility. They should do everything in their power to support their children's spiritual, moral, and intellectual development.



Education in the family:



The first family



The family of Jesus



Family today



How to educate:



Communication

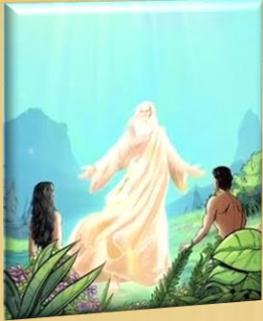


Organization



THE FIRST FAMILY

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)



Adam and Eve were children of God. God taught them, and the angels supported their education. When sin entered the world, a new subject was added: The Plan of Redemption.

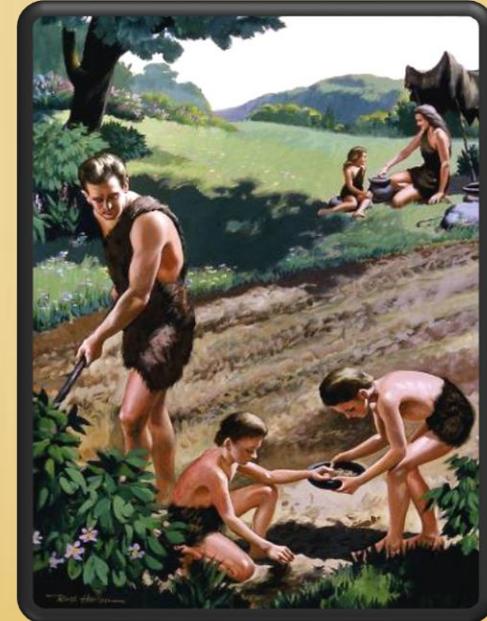


Adam and Eve became the first teachers when Cain was born. The family unit became the heart of human education to this day.

Children learn about Christian doctrine and values within the family. They learn about loving God and accepting Jesus as their Savior and Friend.



Cain and Abel were educated in the same way, but the outcome was quite different in each case. Unfortunately, education does not always produce the expected results.



THE FAMILY OF JESUS

"And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." (Luke 2:40)



God chose Jesus' parents very carefully, as they'd be responsible for His education:



**Joseph: A righteous and obedient man
(Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15, 19-23)**

**Mary: A spiritual, intelligent, determined,
obedient, humble, and helpful woman. She
trusted God completely (Luke 1:26-38, 46-56)**



**Both were upright people. They knew how to educate
their children in God's love and obedience.**



**God became Jesus' teacher as He
grew (John 12:49).**

**Jesus learnt lessons from God
that His earthly parents
couldn't even understand
(Luke 2:41-52).**



FAMILY TODAY

"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)



The father is the head of the family (Ephesians 5:23), so he is responsible for representing Christ's character in the home (Ephesians 5:25).

The mother has the greatest influence in the personality, character, and temperament of their children.

Parents must work together in educating their children.

In the Bible, parents are told to teach their children how to love God and obey Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Children will be responsible for their actions once they become adult. However, parents are responsible for planting the seed in them that will grow for eternal life (Proverbs 22:6).

COMMUNICATION

"The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse." (Proverbs 10:32)

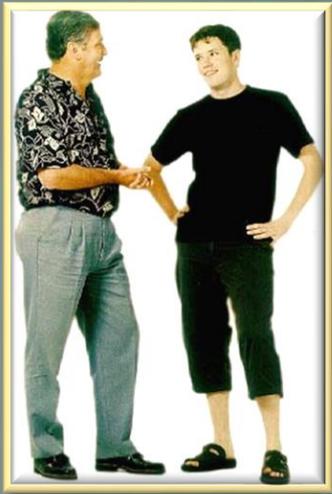


Appropriate communication is essential in education. Parents must devote time to communicate with their children (not just talking, but also listening to them).

Communication must include an emotional side too. Parents should show love in every action.

We should always ask God for wisdom on how to properly imprint Christian values on the hearts of our children, by use of our words and our example.

The time we spend communicating with each member of our family will be well worth it.



ORGANIZATION

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV)



We must organize our schedule in such a way that there's always time to educate our children.

It's important to set a specific time apart for sharing God's wisdom and promises with our children.

Pray with them and schedule a morning and/or evening family worship time.

Tell little children a Bible story before they go to bed.

"Teach a child how to follow the right way; even when he is old, he will stay on course." (Proverbs 22:6 VOICE).



“He [God] desires to see gathered out from the homes of our people a large company of youth who, because of the godly influences of their homes, have surrendered their hearts to Him and go forth to give Him the highest service of their lives. Directed and trained by the godly instruction of the home, the influence of the morning and evening season of worship, the consistent example of parents who love and fear God, they have learned to submit to God as their teacher and leader.”

E.G.W. (In Heavenly Places, July 22)