

### STUDY GUIDE

In an age of school shootings and increasing drug and alcohol abuse, is it possible to raise children that follow the Lord?

1. The family is the first and most fundamental institution ordained in Scripture:
  - a. Adam and Eve were the first family (Genesis 1:26–29, 2:21 ff.). Thus God set the precedent of one man and one woman in marriage for life.
  - b. One of the primary importances of marriage is to produce godly offspring (Malachi 2:15).
  - c. Biblically, the father is given the primary responsibility of training his children in spiritual things (Psalm 78:3–11; Isaiah 38:19; Ephesians 6:4).
2. It only takes one generation for a culture to lose the knowledge of the Creator:
  - a. Aborigines once had the true knowledge of Creator God, and the reality of judgment of sin by a global Flood, as seen by their ‘Dreamtime legends.’
  - b. The Israelites of Joshua’s generation chose to serve the Lord, yet their children forgot what God had done and did evil in His sight (Joshua 4:7,21–22; Judges 2:7–8; 10–11).
3. Scriptural principles for training children.
  - a. Proverbs 22:6: Parents are to train their children to acquire a taste for things of the Lord.
  - b. Psalm 51:5: Parents need to recognize their children are sinners by nature right from conception.
  - c. Matthew 5:13: We are to be the salt of the Earth, but salt can lose its flavor by contamination. I.e. parents need to be careful of the culture they are allowing their children to be influenced by.
  - d. Mark 9:50: Parents are to pour ‘salt’ into their children.

### NOTES

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- e. 1 Corinthians 15:33: Bad company is more influential than good. Parents are to be careful of the company they allow their children to be raised in (i.e. 'peer pressure' can be a very real, very powerful influence on children).
- f. 1 Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:14: Parents are to recognize children are *not* miniature adults, and that they have a childish tendency to be tossed 'to and fro by every wind of doctrine.'
- g. Parents need to build Christian thinking in their children from the 'foundation up,' and not impose it legalistically from the top down, by providing the Biblical basis for what they believe.
- h. Jeremiah 10:2: Parents are to protect their children from being influenced by godless cultures.

### CONCLUSION

Our children will live forever—in either heaven or hell. It is the parents' responsibility to provide their children with the proper worldview by building their thinking on the Word of God. Parents must teach their children the true history of the universe and that eternal life comes by trusting in Jesus Christ alone.

### NOTES

### Q U O T E S

**Martin Luther, 'To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate,' 1520, trans. Charles M. Jacobs, rev. James Atkinson, *The Christian in Society, I* (Luther's Works, ed. James Atkinson, vol. 44), p. 207 (1966)**

I would advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God's word becomes corrupt. Because of this we can see what kind of people they become in the universities and what they are like now. Nobody is to blame for this except the pope, the bishops, and the prelates, who are all charged with training young people. The universities only ought to turn out men who are experts in the Holy Scriptures, men who can become bishops and priests, and stand in the front line against heretics, the devil, and all the world. But where do you find that? I greatly fear that the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on the young students, are wide gates to hell.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the Biblical basis for marriage?
2. How does the Biblical basis for marriage preclude homosexual behavior?
3. Explain how it is possible for the true knowledge of God to become lost in a culture.
4. How does the acceptance of molecules-to-man evolution destroy the basis of marriage?

### RESOURCES

*The Lie: Evolution*  
by Ken Ham

*Dinosaurs of Eden*  
by Ken Ham