

Family Connection

"Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart; love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates." Deut. 6:5-9—The Message Version

What will you leave behind for you children? This may sound like a morbid question, but it is one of the most important questions we can answer and the time to answer it is now, while we are still alive. There are two types of inheritances we will leave to our children—one is physical and the other is spiritual. The physical inheritance is found in your portfolio and your assets and is what most of us first think about when we hear the word "inheritance." This type of inheritance is important for us to think about because we all want to be a blessing to our children and make sure they are taken care of when we are gone; but we must keep its importance in perspective. The Bible offers sobering words about the lasting value of what we leave behind when the writer of Ecclesiastes says in 2:21, "For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune." Obviously, this passage is not teaching us that we have no obligation to provide financially for our families, but it does open our eyes to the fact that our kids need more than just our money. Jesus also says that we are to lay up treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy (Mt. 6:19-20) to teach us about the lasting value of the spiritual, over the physical. So, when we ask the question of what we will leave behind, we should add the qualifier of what will we leave behind that will have lasting value.

Inheritance?

Scripture says that the things that are eternal in this life are non-material (i.e. the Word of God, the souls of men, truth). This pushes the conversion of our children and the need for them to have a Biblical worldview to the front as the most important things we can give our kids. As we rightly plan to save for our kids' college educations and make sure we have enough life insurance, we as parents must also make sure our kids are receiving "the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). This command to teach our children the ways of God comes to us in Ephesians, in the context of the family. Hopefully, the church serves to assist parents, but we must never rely on someone else to take care of our kids. Just as you would not plan on only depending on the government to take care of your family with social programs after you are gone, we should not depend only on other ministries or programs to provide a spiritual inheritance for our children. Let me encourage you to spend as much time thinking about and planning for your spiritual inheritance as you do your physical one. The benefits are far greater and the stakes much higher when we consider what happens to the hearts and souls of our kids, over just what happens to their bodies. Below are two recourses that will help you build a spiritual inheritance for your family. May God bless you as you dream big on behalf of your loved ones.

Grandpa's Box

By Starr Meade

This is an excellent way to introduce your child to the great doctrines of Scripture. The story is about Marc and Amy, whose grandfather begins to tell them the story of a great war. We come to discover that the war began in the garden of Eden and has been going on ever since. Starr Meade does a wonderful job of tracing the redemptive storyline of Scripture. This is an excellent book for a younger youth to read or for a parent to read to a child. Along the way, the reader will be helped to properly read and understand the Word of God. [Grandpa's Box](http://www.christianbook.com) can be ordered from www.christianbook.com.



What do I need to teach my children about God?

Throughout the history of Christianity, God's people have developed tools for teaching and training up their children. One of those tools is *catechism*. This is not a word we use very often in our circle, but it is a helpful, comprehensive tool to help you as parents to pass down accurate biblical teaching about who God is and how his people should live. Below is a link to a revised version of the Baptist Catechism that you may download. Included is an introduction to what a catechism is and why it is important.

http://www.desiringgod.org/library/what_we_believe/catechism.html