

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Part 9 of Foundation 260 - OT. Exodus 13:14-16.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 22, 2026.

WHAT PARENTS WANT

I was shocked to discover that...

- Only 51% of Christian parents are very concerned about their children's spiritual development.¹
- Shouldn't our kids' spiritual welfare be our main concern?

EXODUS 13

If we want our children to have faith, remember this:

- God uses teaching to pass the Christian faith from one generation to the next.
- We learned this from last week's Foundations 260 readings about the Exodus and Passover.

14 "In the future, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'By the strength of his hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of humans and the firstborn of livestock. That is why I sacrifice to the LORD all the firstborn of the womb that are males, but I redeem all the firstborn of my sons.' 16 So let it be a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead, for the LORD brought us out of Egypt by the strength of his hand."

Parents, we must teach our children the Christian faith.

- Raise them *"in the training and instruction of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4).

¹ <https://www.barna.com/research/christian-parents-concerns/>

THE THREE-PART CURRICULUM

Exodus 13 contains a three-part curriculum.

PART ONE: TEACH CHILDREN GOD STORIES

4 “In the future, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘By the strength of his hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.’”

Tell your children the Jesus story:

- Tell stories about Jesus healing the sick and casting out demons.
- Tell the big events: cross, ascension, etc.

Be a storyteller:

- Create excitement and wonder.
- Use every resource available.

PART TWO: TEACH CHILDREN GOD’S CHARACTER

15 “When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn male in the land of Egypt...”

Does that sound harsh? WHY?

- Because we don’t know God’s character.

“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31, CSB).

The Passover and the Cross reveal God’s character.

- He is just, righteous, holy, patient, AND loving, gracious, and merciful.
- Teach them to treasure ALL God truly is.

PART THREE: TEACH CHILDREN GOD'S SAVING POWER

16 So let it be a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead, for the LORD brought us out of Egypt by the strength of his hand."

When we teach God's whole character, our kids will gradually come to understand their need for a Savior.

- Teach Passover and Cross as salvation stories.
- Explain that we are very great sinners in need of a very great Savior.

"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13 (CSB).

Pray for three things:

- The opportunity to be your child's evangelist.
- God's grace to open their heart to Christ the Savior.
- God's grace to live a consistent Christ-centered life for them to see.

WHAT ARE YOU RAISING?

A Pharaoh?

- They stubbornly reject God.
- How? Do not teach them the Christian faith.

A Pharisee?

- They are religious but not saved.
- How? Feed them religious talk, but do not press the need for a Savior.

A Follower?

- They are truly born again and committed to Jesus.
- How? Follow the Exodus 13 curriculum. Keep praying for a breakthrough.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's March 22nd teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. What are some roadblocks Christian parents encounter that make prioritizing spiritual formation over academics, behavior, or success a challenge?
2. What Bible story or gospel truth most clearly helped you understand who God is when you were young? How can parents or grandparents make Bible stories feel vivid, memorable, and emotionally meaningful for our kids?
3. Which attributes of God are easiest for people to explain to children, and which are easiest to avoid? Why is it important to teach both God's mercy and God's justice? What are some ways to explain God's justice and judgment?
4. What is the difference between teaching a child to behave religiously and teaching a child to need a Savior? How can parents tell when a child is leaning on borrowed faith rather than truly trusting Christ?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."
- Pray for parents to teach their children well, and for the next generation to believe and follow Jesus.