

RAISING CHRIST-CENTERED KIDS

Brad Driedger - May 17, 2026

PARENTING IS AN AMAZING CALLING FROM GOD

Psalm 127:3–5 (NLT)

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. ⁴ Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. ⁵ How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

Parents are still the single greatest influence in their child's life

Your actions, values and beliefs will do more to determine who your kid becomes than anything or anyone else.

Luke 6:46–49 (NLT)

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

Influencing our children to be Christ-centered means building on Jesus as our foundation by actively (daily) applying kingdom values in our home.

Applying kingdom values starts with us

Mark 7:6 (NLT)

Jesus replied, “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Values we should apply in our parenting:

1. **Teach your children to Love God Wholeheartedly**

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NLT)

“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

A CHRIST-CENTERED FAMILY IS A FAMILY THAT LIVES OUT JESUS' GREATEST COMMANDMENT TO US!

Loving God means:

- Making a conscious decision to follow God

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

- Desiring Him

Psalm 63:1

“O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

- Taking obedient action

John 14:15 (NLT)

“If you love me, obey my commandments.

Take obedient action, serve His purposes! Use everything you have to glorify Him. Live in His righteousness

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (NLT)

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2. Teach your children to Love People Deeply**Mark 12:29–31 (NLT)**

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.

We want to raise children who genuinely reflect the heart of Jesus toward people.

John 13:33–35 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

LOVE OTHERS THE WAY JESUS HAS LOVED YOU:

- Jesus' Love Was Humble & Sacrificial
- Jesus' Love Was Compassionate
- Jesus' Love Was Gracious & Forgiving