

## NURTURING THE FAITH OF THE NEXT GENERATION: FOUNDATION 3: A HEART RESPONSE CENTERED ON THE GOSPEL

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[childrendesiringgod.org/resources/vision.php](http://childrendesiringgod.org/resources/vision.php)

Children need to **see the glory of God**,  
which comes by **hearing the Word of God**,  
so that they can r\_\_\_\_\_ to the G\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

⇒ One of the dangers to children growing up in church is that they can k\_\_\_\_\_ the Bible, without knowing the G\_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible; they can know all the right a\_\_\_\_\_ and yet never be gripped with the t\_\_\_\_\_.

⇒ We cannot p\_\_\_\_\_ faith in our children—only Jesus can produce faith.  
 See ***Hebrews 12:2***.

⇒ We can, however, be f\_\_\_\_\_ teachers of the word and p\_\_\_\_\_ of the truth, t\_\_\_\_\_ that God will use our efforts to touch and shape the hearts of our children.

☆ The most effective way to reach the heart is through the faithful teaching of the Word of God.

⇒ Be careful not to underestimate the power of God's Word  
 See ***Hebrews 4:12***.  
 See ***1 Corinthians 1:18***.  
 See ***1 Peter 1:24-25***.

## Moving from Facts to Response

### Five Levels of Learning *(Creative Bible Teaching, Larry Fowler)*

**Level #1:** \_\_\_\_\_: Child can repeat the facts without thought of meaning. You can see this in a toddler who can parrot a Bible verse, or in a child who can tell you the facts of a Bible story, but has no understanding of the meaning of those facts.

**Level #2:** \_\_\_\_\_: the ability to recognize Biblical concepts. You could also call this comprehension of the facts.

⇒ The first two levels of learning **s**\_\_\_\_\_ **f**\_\_\_\_\_. The teacher is active as the teller of these facts.

⇒ The next three levels go **b**\_\_\_\_\_ **facts to m**\_\_\_\_\_. In these levels, the teacher is not an active teller, but rather a guide. The students are active participants rather than just listeners.

**Level #3:** \_\_\_\_\_: the ability to express or relate concepts to a biblical system of thought. The child understands the meaning in terms of biblical worldview.

⇒ In the last two levels of learning, the student is able to **u**\_\_\_\_\_ the meaning in terms of his own life and personal experience.

**Level #4:** \_\_\_\_\_: the ability to relate Bible truths to life and see an appropriate response to that truth. In other words, the student understands the relationship between the truth and his own life.

☆ Ask many questions, and encourage children to think, look up answers, and draw conclusions.

☆ Share from your own faith experience.

☆ When we teach, we should aim for the heart—we should teach in such a way that we lead children to see what response the Word of God is asking of them.

**Level #5:** \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_):  
Child makes a response to the truth—he applies biblical truths to daily life. He acts on the Word instead of just hearing it.

☆ Encourage children to respond to the truth not just hear it—to be a doer of the Word, and not just a hearer of the Word.

☆ The partnership between teaching and experience

See ***Job 42:5.***

See ***2 Timothy 3:15.***

See ***Psalms 34:8.***

## The Gospel Must Be Embraced by the Whole Person

⇔ **The Partnership**—What we have to offer in the church setting is systematic, weekly teaching—and combined with your regular teaching and use of the Word, this is building a wonderful base of scriptural understanding for our children, which is of critical importance.

☐ See **Romans 10:17**.

⇒ Knowledge alone creates P\_\_\_\_\_—those who know the Word but haven't had a heart change—it penetrates the mind, but not the heart and the will. Our children may know the Word without knowing the Word Giver.

⇔ **The partnership between the church and parents is so important. Parents must know what their children are being taught so they can help children apply those lessons in the fabric of everyday life.**

How do you lead a child to understand,  
and to desire to act on an appropriate response to biblical truth?

- First, students must clearly u\_\_\_\_\_ the truth.
- Then, the way that you authentically lead the children to see the response that the Word of God is asking of them, and encourage them to make that response is to **first I\_\_\_\_\_ that Scripture yourself.**

⇒ **Heart lessons are gained through e\_\_\_\_\_, not through sitting in a classroom.**