



## A LEGACY OF INFLUENCE

From the perspective of a parent, what does leaving a legacy look like? Having children grow up to be sound in their decision-making abilities, of good character, able to relate to others socially and, most importantly, love Jesus are the hallmarks of a legacy that was passed well. When it comes to the question of leadership, what will you impart to your children that will help shape their views of how they can impact and **influence** the world around them?

When it comes to helping our children grow as leaders, it is important that we ask ourselves this question: what am I leaving them with? Good financial stewardship allows us to leave an inheritance **to** our children. Purposeful living with vision for what “could and should be” will leave a legacy **in** our children.

### Impact or Influence?

In thinking about leadership and how we can prepare our children to walk in their calling, the question becomes, “Do I want my kids to make an impact, or do I want my children to influence the people they come in contact with?”

The word “impact” is used to describe a lasting impression, as when a hammer strikes a rock. If hit hard enough, the rock will have the impression of the hammer on it somewhere. It’s something that stays with you for a long time. “Influence,” on the other hand, is used to describe a change in someone’s perception or behavior. It is a shift that causes you to think differently, and can be positive or negative.

As parents, our goal is to train up our children in the way they should go. This means that they are to be reflections of Jesus and influencers of the people and society they are part of. Jesus was a “*change agent*.” He came and preached the Gospel so that the world would be influenced forever. Leading your children to do the same can be as simple as following this acrostic about influence. If you practice these nine elements, you will have greater influence in the life of your children and help them grow as leaders who influence others.

**I - Invest in them.** In our family, we call it filling our “love tank”. What can you do with your children that will be seen by them as an investment in their love language? Do you know what their love languages are?

**N - Natural with them.** Be natural around your kids. That means being yourself and being the parent, not the friend. They need you to enforce boundaries and keep them safe, while still having fun with them. It takes practice but is **SO** worth it.

**F - Faith in them.** Your kids need you to believe in them. Aside from Jesus, you should be the biggest hero in their lives, because you continue to speak positively about who they are and who they will become. This is big time stuff for them.

**L - Listen to them.** Listening well is an art and takes practice. When you stop to listen to your kids, it communicates trust and shows them you care. They don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Listen to them!

**U - Understand them.** This goes with listening. When you listen to your kids, you have a better path to understanding their needs, desires and dreams. Don’t miss this—they are awesome people.

**E - Encourage them.** EVERYONE needs encouragement. Your children are not exempt from this. Think of encouragement as wind in the sails of a journeying ship. Without wind, the ship cannot go far. Without encouragement, your children may be stuck in a place that they cannot break free from. Your words have power. Put some wind in their sails!

**N - Navigate with them.** You are to be the strongest voice in your children’s lives. Giving them biblical guidance and direction as they are faced with decisions will help them walk this life of faith. Using God’s Word as the standard for daily life will help you influence a strong bond with Jesus and your family.

**C - Concern for them.** This should be obvious, but it’s worth the reminder. Demonstrating compassion and care for your children is critical in letting them know you love them and are ALWAYS available for them.

**E - Enthusiastic for them.** Your child needs to know that you are their biggest cheerleader! Let them see and hear your passion for them. “...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!” Matthew 12:34 NKJ

# I CAN MAKE GOOD CHOICES

## NURSERY & PRESCHOOL

### WEEK 1

## I CAN LEARN FROM ADAM AND EVE - GENESIS 1:26-28; 2:15-4:23

**READ GENESIS 1:26-28; 2:15-4:23** Today in VicKids your child learns that they can make good choices. The Bible tells us how Adam and Eve's disobedience changed everything and the importance of making good choices. Repeating this Heartprint, "I can make good choices", may seem redundant, but it will serve as a vital aid in teaching this truth to your preschooler.

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Have your child stand about 5 steps away from you. Explain that you will say some different situations. Either give a situation along with an ending (either right or wrong) or if the choice that was made was right or wrong. If it was a right one, he or she will take a step toward you. If it was a wrong one, he or she will remain still. When he or she reaches you, celebrate by doing something special (blowing bubbles, making cookies or a short craft etc.).

*Pray and ask God to help you and your child make good choices.*

### WEEK 2

## MAKING GOOD CHOICES - GENESIS 3:6, 22a; 1 JOHN 1:9

**READ GENESIS 3:6, 22a; 1 JOHN 1:9** Today in VicKids your child learns that they can make good choices. Sinning is never a good choice, but God will forgive our sins. Use the following ideas to involve your child in family time and learning opportunities, reinforcing simple biblical themes.

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Hold up a stuffed animal barely out of your child's reach, but close enough that he or she can touch it when stretching. We all make wrong choices or sin. Remember that sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's instruction. Move the stuffed animal a little bit further, but close enough for your child to touch it when jumping. When we make wrong choices and don't confess them to God and ask for forgiveness, we move a little bit further from God. Move the stuffed animal completely out of your child's reach. Our sin can make our relationship with God seem distant or out of reach. Move the stuffed animal next to your child. Jesus forgave our sins so we can be close to God. He wants us to make good choices in our lives.

*Pray with your child, thanking God for forgiving us when we make wrong choices. Pray you and your child would make good choices.*

### WEEK 3

## NOAH AND THE FLOOD - GENESIS 6:9-22; 7:1-24; 8:1-22

**READ GENESIS 6:9-22; 7:1-24; 8:1-22** Today in VicKids your child learns about a man named Noah and the good choices he made. Like Noah, we can choose to obey God and listen to Him, or we can choose not to follow God's rules. We should choose to follow God and listen to Him even when other people don't. When we don't follow God's instructions, that is called sin.

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Tape a large ark shape on your floor or carpet. Have your children choose an animal they want to be and you can pretend to be Noah. Have the children move around the room being the animal they chose and making that sound. Noah guesses which animal he/she is and tells them, "Get in the ark! It's starting to rain!" As each child enters the ark space, lightly spray them with water! Once all the animals are in the ark, have Noah come in as well.

*Pray and thank God that your family will walk in close fellowship with God.*

### WEEK 4

## ABRAHAM FOLLOWS GOD - GENESIS 12:1-3; 15:1-7; 21:1-5

**READ GENESIS 12:1-3; 15:1-7; 21:1-5** This week in VicKids your child learns about a man named Abraham and the good choices he made. One day God said to Abraham, "Leave your country and your people. Leave your father's family and go to the country that I will show you." Abraham chose to follow God. He didn't know where he was going, but he followed God anyway. God said, "This is the land I will give to you and your children." But Abraham didn't have any children! He and his wife Sarah were very old! God said they would have a baby boy, and that He would make Abraham's family very big; there would be as many people in his family as there were stars in the sky!

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Parents, say this to your kids, "Just like father Abraham chose to follow God, we are going to play a game now called follow the leader!" Have your child follow you around the room copying whatever movements you do for about 2 minutes, then switch and take different turns.

*Pray and thank God for loving us, and for you and your family to follow God just like father Abraham did.*

# TOUGH QUESTIONS

## ELEMENTARY

### WHY DOES EVIL EXIST? - *Romans 5:12-14*

WEEK 1

**READ Romans 5:12-14** Today your student learns about how Adam and Eve lost their innocence when they became aware of good and evil. Once you become aware of something, it is impossible to become unaware of it. Adam and Eve could not take back the choice that they had made. Your student learns that the world has sin in it, but that it is important to always direct his/her heart to the goodness that comes from God.

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** While God created a perfect world, sin entered into the world and it opened up the world to sin. We have to shield ourselves from things that are not pure and holy. Take some family time and discuss how it is important to protect our eyes, ears, mouths, and our hands and feet from seeing, hearing, saying, and doing things they shouldn't. Emphasize that if we do make bad choices, God is always ready to forgive us. All we have to do is be honest with Him and ask for forgiveness. He will always listen!

*Pray that your student draws deeper in relationship with God and live life in a way that pleases Him!*

### WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING? - *James 1:2-3*

WEEK 2

**READ James 1:2-3** Today your student learns about how we sometimes go through hard times, but that it does not mean that God no longer loves us or cares about us. His love never ends! He/she will learn the importance of always going to Him during these times and to never doubt His love! Life may get us down at times, but God has the power to lift us up!

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** We may experience hard times in our lives, but so do other people! It's also important to think of other people who may be going through tough times. Take some time as a family and discuss some options for your family to help make this time a little easier for someone who is having a difficult time. Consider making cookies to deliver, making cards to encourage them, inviting them over for dinner, having the children over for a play date and for the parents to have some uninterrupted time, etc. After you have finished, pray over the people that your family has designated to help.

*Pray that your family knows the depth of God's love and that He will never leave or forget about them. His love will never fail!*

### WHY DOES HELL EXIST? - *2 Thessalonians 1:9*

WEEK 3

**READ 2 Thessalonians 1:9** Today your student learns about the topic of Hell. It's a heavy topic, but it does exist and it is a real place. Your student learns the importance of drawing near to God and truly following His lead. He/she will learn how important it is to not just live a life so that other people can see Christ, but to speak the truth about Jesus so that other people can be saved and not be separated from God.

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Use this time to dig deeper in discussion with your student. Ask him/her questions about the lesson to see how he/she processed it. The world uses all sorts of visuals and descriptions of Hell that are inaccurate, but speak into ideas without us realizing it. Dig deeper into these questions.

1. What was something new that you learned?
2. How can you apply what you have learned to your own life?
3. How can sharing God's truth and love impact the lives of other people?

*Pray for someone who doesn't know about the love of Jesus. Pray for boldness and the opportunity to share about the truth of Jesus with him/her.*

### WHY DO BAD PEOPLE PROSPER? - *GALATIANS 6:9*

WEEK 4

**READ Galatians 6:9** Today your student learns that sometimes people who make bad choices **seem** to get ahead in life. He/she will learn that there are consequences for EVERY single action and choice he/she makes. We will dig deeper into why it's important to never let those around us impact our choices in a negative way, but how important it is to impact the world around us with God's love!

**EXPLORE TOGETHER** Sometimes people who make bad choices appear to be successful in life. Use your family time as a teaching moment. As you watch different television shows, movies, or sporting events, discuss how our culture often glorifies the behavior of those who choose to do wrong. Discuss ways to do the right thing, even when those who take shortcuts and do bad things seem more successful. Dig deeper and be sure to point out that there are consequences for every choice. Another person's wrong attitude and choices should not determine our attitudes and choices toward doing the right thing!

*Pray that your student will have strength and courage in making wise and honest choices that will glorify God!*

# CONNECTING AT HOME

victoryathome.com

*Four Things You Can Do to positively influence and mentor the leadership gift in your kids.*

## 1. Paint Pictures

Almost every young child can visualize a picture of something when we say a word to describe it. As adults, we can think in abstract ways, but younger children need pictures to understand certain concepts we take for granted. **When talking about leadership to your kids, try to paint a word picture for the story you are telling them.**

## 2. Give Them “Handles”

Kids need “handles” they can grab on to so they can get an understanding of a leadership truth. Telling the story is one thing; helping them understand the principle of the illustrated truth is the “handle”. **Name two “handles” you can give your kids to explain a leadership truth.**

## 3. Supply Roadmaps

Google Maps does a great job of telling you where you are and how to get to where you want to go. It also shows you the optional routes you can take to get there. As parents, developing vision (the road) for our kids’ lives is just as important as helping them make the right choices (left turn or right turn). As they grow older, there will be more roadmaps they will need help with (friends, school, career, and family). **What is one leadership roadmap you can start working on with your child now?**

## 4. Give Them Roots

Roots are foundational. As a Christian family, these foundations represent your heritage and biblical worldview and will serve your children well as they grow into adults. Humility, honesty, servanthood and living a simple life are great leadership roots for your kids. **What are you weaving into the foundation and fabric of your family that will galvanize their leadership and lives in the years to come?**

## RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

*Nurturing the Leader Within Your Child  
What Every Parent Needs to Know*

*by Dr. Tim Elmore*

## PARENT PERSPECTIVE

*The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.*

*Billy Graham*

## Victory at HOME Family Mission Trip 2018

July 13-20, 2018

Cuernavaca, Mexico

Interest Meeting: Saturday, October 21, 2017

4pm, V4 Building - Norcross Campus

## Upcoming Events - October and November

Operation Christmas Child - Last year 615 kids were blessed

**OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS 1000 BOXES!!!**

Box collection at VicKids starts November 4.

Follow us on:



## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” Romans 8:28 NLT

## Additional Resources

[victoryathome.com/octresources](http://victoryathome.com/octresources)