



Face the Issue:

This past Sunday, we focused on our MBC Kids and our responsibility to instill a love for God in the children that are within our realm of influence..

What most influenced your relationship with God in your own upbringing?

What was the most positive influence? Why?

How has this affected the way you relate to children?

When do you think we should begin teaching a child about God?

What difference does the child's stage of development make to what he or she can learn?

Into the Word:

Read Proverbs 22:6.

Is this a statement of promise or probability? Why?

Why is this distinction important?

What assurance can we have based on this verse?

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

Moses set a precondition for teaching children God's ways. What is it? Why is it important?

According to this passage, what place should religion have in daily life?

Read Deuteronomy 6:20–21 and Exodus 12:26–27.

When is religious instruction to take place?

Should it be restricted to a formal setting and structure, or should it take place spontaneously and naturally? How would you explain your answer?

Read Luke 2:41–52.

Jesus was fully human as well as fully God. What does this teach us about the expectations we should have for children?

Apply The Word

What are some common mistakes parents make in teaching their children about the Christian faith? How can they be avoided?

Which of your parents' practices have you specifically avoided or will try to avoid when you have children? Why? How do you avoid going to an opposite extreme?

Can a five-year-old make a decision for Christ? How should we respond if we feel the step the child wants to take is premature?

How can adults other than parents contribute to building a child's faith? How does this illustrate the importance of the church?