



Do My Kids Know How Much I Value Scripture???

In your mind and heart you firmly believe that Bible is the most important "subject" your kids can learn. But are they picking up on it? Do your convictions play out in your actions? It's one thing to say we value Scripture, but a different, much harder thing to show that we value Scripture when there are so many other important things to learn. This is particularly true when our educational structures and formats are patterned after the secular society's system. But whether your kids go to public school and are part of that system, or they are homeschooled and you have more say in how they spend their study time, if you really value Scripture, your kids ought to perceive it by your actions, not only by your claims. Kids will almost always end up patterning their lives after what they saw Mom and Dad doing at home; what you want for them later has to be a part of who you are now.

We believe our kids need to know God's Word better than any other single subject if they are going to be "successful" in this life according to God's standards. Here are some questions that we have asked ourselves occasionally to keep our actions measuring up to our claims. Let the Lord use these questions to get you thinking and talking together as parents. If He prompts you, these questions might help you adjust your schedule and priorities so that they fit with what you really believe.

IF YOU HOME SCHOOL:

1. What subjects do I spend considerable time preparing for as I teach my children? What subjects do we parents talk about in front of the kids? What subjects do I spend time researching on the Internet or at the library? Do my kids ever see me with my Bible open?

2. When we are pressed for time, which subjects are the first to go? Which subjects do I worry about going too many days without? What would my kids say would be the one subject we would do in the day, if we had time for only one?

3. How much effort do I require my kids to put into the subjects I value? Which subjects can they get away with being lazy in? Which subjects do I expect them to practice at, and spend time improving in? In which subjects do I require accuracy, understanding, and attention, and in which subjects do I require them only to "put in their time"?

4. How often do my kids get to see the subjects I value in practical use at times other than school? Is either parent demonstrating the usefulness of the subjects we value? Do the children see their parents needing to know the things that the parents are telling the children they'll need to know when they are adults?

IF YOUR KIDS ARE IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SCHOOL:

1. What subject do I make time to teach my kids when they are at home? In what subjects am I actively tracking their progress at school? What subject do we parents talk about in front of the kids? What subject do I spend time researching on the Internet or at the library?

2. Am I aware of what they are learning in Bible at school, and aggressively supplementing that instruction at home where I feel the school is lacking? What subjects do I talk about with the children's teachers? What would my kids say would be the one subject we would do in the day, if we had time for only one? Do my kids think I care what they are (or aren't) learning in school about Bible? (If they are in a public school), do the children see Bible as a subject taught only at church?

3. How much effort do I require my kids to put into the subjects I value? Which subjects can they get away with being lazy in? Which subjects do I expect them to practice at, and spend time improving in? In which subjects do I require accuracy, understanding, and attention, and in which subjects do I require them only to "put in their time"? Do they ever bring home homework in "Bible" so that I can help them with that? Do we ever talk about what they learned in Bible at school? Would they consider "Bible" a subject which requires much mental attention, like math or science?

4. How often do my kids get to see the subjects I value in practical use at times other than school? Is either parent demonstrating the usefulness of the subjects we value? Do the children see their parents needing to know the things that the parents are telling the children they'll need to know when they are adults?

The Disciple Curriculum was created as our family's answer to many of these questions at a time when we felt our actions did not reflect what we truly said we valued. The studies are rigorous, interesting, and require our children to engage their minds with Scripture. The Curriculum assumes that we have allotted significant time in our day to pursuing God's Word, and demands that the best efforts of our children's minds be spent on studying Scripture. Through the memory passages learned in song, our study in Bible lingers on and on through the evenings and weekends as the children hum the songs as they play and work, providing opportunities for family discussion and personal meditation.