How to Ensure Your Kid Won't Walk Away From the Faith After Graduation

That title sounds like clickbait, doesn't it? What parent doesn't want to make sure their not-ready-for-prime-time young adult will continue to walk with the Lord, honoring Him with their life, and making wise, biblically-based decisions? Wouldn't it be great if such a 5-point guaranteed method existed?

Too bad. It's doesn't. Life isn't like that. We can't control other people like that.

But I can make some suggestions that have made a difference in other families.

1. PRAY. And never stop. Our children are the targets of spiritual warfare. They are hated by the enemy of our souls who hates God, hates His people, and wants to destroy our children.

2. From the time they are itty-bitty, play "Spot the Lie." Pay attention to the lies of the world, the flesh and the devil (1 John 2:16), and talk about them with your children when you're sitting at home, when you're walking and driving, when you're putting them to bed, and when they get up in the morning (Deuteronomy 6:7). For example, one day when my now-grown children were in elementary school, the car radio played Bette Midler's song "From a Distance," which says that God is watching us from a distance. I asked, "Is that true?" My sons thought about it and said, "No! He's right here with us!" Exactly. We spotted the lie. And called it what is was.

3. Educate yourself about how to answer the Big Questions of Life so you can talk to your kids about them: How do we know

there is a God? How do we know we can trust the Bible? How do we know Jesus is God? Why does a good God allow pain and evil and suffering?

What makes kids walk away from the faith is usually having unanswered questions. They might not ask for fear of a lame answer, or they might deduce that they shouldn't doubt, shouldn't question the things we teach them, and they should "just have faith." Well, here's the thing: we should trust our lives and our eternities to Christ not because of warm fuzzy feelings, but *because Christianity is true!* Do you know WHY it's true?

Let me recommend a couple of new books, written by moms to equip other parents to be confident in their own faith so they can effectively teach it to their kids.

Keeping Your Kids on God's Side: 40 Conversations to Help Them Build a Lasting Faith by Natasha Crain is super accessible and understandable. One of the best apologetics books I've seen.

Teaching Others to Defend Christianity by Cathryn Buse is written by a former NASA engineer (now a stay-at-home mom of littles) who uses her "mad logic skillz" to walk the reader through the basic Big Questions of Life in an organized way.

One other resource: a few months ago I was asked to speak to a group of moms on "Apologetics for Parents of Littles." You can download the recording here and get the handout here.

4. Talk to your kids about these big questions of the Christian life: about God, the Bible, Jesus, pain and suffering. Ask them what they think and how they're working through these very important issues. Talk about these things *before* they leave your nest after high school!

5. One final suggestion: send your kid(s) to Probe Ministries' Mind Games camp, a one-week total immersion in worldview and apologetics, both classic apologetics (those Big Questions of

Life) and cultural apologetics, such as Grace and Truth About LGBT, Genetic Engineering, The Differences Between Guys and Girls, How to Watch a Movie, Christian Views of Science and Earth History, and more. It's a faith-builder and question-answerer, with lots of free time for fun and connecting with other campers. For many of the campers, it deeply impacts their hearts and souls, nailing down the glorious fact that Christianity is TRUE! My husband I have been privileged to pour into high school and college students through Mind Games for over 20 years; it is truly our joy! This year it's June 11-17 at Camp Copass in Denton, Texas. Check out the videos and lots of information at probe.org/mindgames.

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