

## Setting Biblical Goals in Parenting

### *Answer Key*

#### I. Nuances in setting goals for your children.

- A. We often try to accomplish right goals with the wrong **motives**.  
Example: Are children to obey because I don't want to be embarrassed by their misbehavior or because God says it is good for them?
- B. We often try to accomplish right goals using the wrong **methods**.  
Example: We can train them to obey by manipulating them/threatening them with the loss of our love or we can do it constructively through loving communication and discipline.
- C. The fact that we have a goal that sounds Biblical does not mean that we are really accomplishing anything in our child's life. By having the wrong motives and using the wrong methods we can actually do more harm than good. We turn out Pharisees rather than Christ-followers.

#### II. Goals – Biblical vs. Unbiblical

- A. Happiness. I want my child to be **happy**.
1. Unbiblical. I want my child to feel good about themselves. They need to think of themselves as better than others.
  2. Biblical. God is concerned about their **holiness**. He wants them to learn to fear and obey God and care for others. This will bring about true and lasting happiness in their lives. Romans 2:14-15. Proverbs 13:15. John 13:15-17.
- B. Developing special skills. Football, hockey, soccer, gymnastics, dance, piano, etc.
1. Unbiblical. I want my child to learn to be **successful** in life.
  2. Biblical. God wants their life to be a life that glorifies **Him**. Exercise has legitimate purpose in keeping the body healthy so that he can serve God and enjoy others. Learning skills that can be of value in our service to Christ has great merit.

C. Do well in school. Get good grades.

1. Unbiblical. I want my child to do well in school so that they can get into the best school, get a good job, and make a good **living**.
2. Biblical. We learn to read so that we can read the **Bible**, God's Word. We want to get a good education so that we can do a good job for our employers and provide for our families as God requires.

D. Get saved.

1. Unbiblical. I led my child to Christ. My spiritual responsibility is **done**.
2. Biblical. Leading your child to saving faith in Jesus Christ is important. However, it must be part of an overall **discipleship** and training effort.

E. Family devotions

1. Unbiblical. We had family devotions 5 days per week the **entire** time my children were growing up.
2. Biblical. Having family devotions isn't the goal. Knowing God is the goal. For family devotions we read the Bible and **talked** about Who God is, what He is like, and why His way of doing things is always the best.

F. Well-behaved, obedient children.

1. Unbiblical. I want my children to obey me the first time I tell them something. I don't want to be **embarrassed** in front of my friends and family anymore.
2. Biblical. **God** wants children to be taught to obey because that is what is best for them and honors Him.

III. Biblical Goals

- A. Teach them to love, fear, know and obey **God** above everything else. Matthew 22:36-38. Deuteronomy 6:6-9.
- B. Teach them to put **others** first. Matthew 22:39. Philippians 2:1-11.
- C. Teach them to **obey** you and other authorities, as God's agents to them for their good. Ephesians 6:1-4. Colossians 3:20. Romans 13:1-7. Hebrews 13:17.
- D. Model the Christian life for them. Show them **your** love and devotion to Christ by your obedience to Him. John 14:15, 21, 23-24.

## **Setting Biblical Goals in Parenting**

*Student Worksheet*

### **I. Nuances in setting goals for your children.**

- A. We often try to accomplish right goals with the wrong \_\_\_\_\_.  
Example: Are children to obey because I don't want to be embarrassed by their misbehavior or because God says it is good for them?
- B. We often try to accomplish right goals using the wrong \_\_\_\_\_.  
Example: We can train them to obey by manipulating them/threatening them with the loss of our love or we can do it constructively through loving communication and discipline.
- C. The fact that we have a goal that sounds Biblical does not mean that we are really accomplishing anything in our child's life. By having the wrong motives and using the wrong methods we can actually do more harm than good. We turn out Pharisees rather than Christ-followers.

### **II. Goals – Biblical vs. Unbiblical**

- A. Happiness. I want my child to be \_\_\_\_\_.
1. Unbiblical. I want my child to feel good about themselves. They need to think of themselves as better than others.
  2. Biblical. God is concerned about their \_\_\_\_\_. He wants them to learn to fear and obey God and care for others. This will bring about true and lasting happiness in their lives. Romans 2:14-15. Proverbs 13:15. John 13:15-17.
- B. Developing special skills. Football, hockey, soccer, gymnastics, dance, piano, etc.
1. Unbiblical. I want my child to learn to be \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
  2. Biblical. God wants their life to be a life that glorifies \_\_\_\_\_. Exercise has legitimate purpose in keeping the body healthy so that he can serve God and enjoy others. Learning skills that can be of value in our service to Christ has great merit.

C. Do well in school. Get good grades.

1. Unbiblical. I want my child to do well in school so that they can get into the best school, get a good job, and make a good \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Biblical. We learn to read so that we can read the \_\_\_\_\_, God's Word. We want to get a good education so that we can do a good job for our employers and provide for our families as God requires.

D. Get saved.

1. Unbiblical. I led my child to Christ. My spiritual responsibility is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Biblical. Leading your child to saving faith in Jesus Christ is important. However, it must be part of an overall \_\_\_\_\_ and training effort.

E. Family devotions

1. Unbiblical. We had family devotions 5 days per week the \_\_\_\_\_ time my children were growing up.
2. Biblical. Having family devotions isn't the goal. Knowing God is the goal. For family devotions we read the Bible and \_\_\_\_\_ about Who God is, what He is like, and why His way of doing things is always the best.

F. Well-behaved, obedient children.

1. Unbiblical. I want my children to obey me the first time I tell them something. I don't want to be \_\_\_\_\_ in front of my friends and family anymore.
2. Biblical. \_\_\_\_\_ wants children to be taught to obey because that is what is best for them and honors Him.

III. Biblical Goals

- A. Teach them to love, fear, know and obey \_\_\_\_\_ above everything else. Matthew 22:36-38. Deuteronomy 6:6-9.
- B. Teach them to put \_\_\_\_\_ first. Matthew 22:39. Philippians 2:1-11.
- C. Teach them to \_\_\_\_\_ you and other authorities, as God's agents to them for their good. Ephesians 6:1-4. Colossians 3:20. Romans 13:1-7. Hebrews 13:17.
- D. Model the Christian life for them. Show them \_\_\_\_\_ love and devotion to Christ by your obedience to Him. John 14:15, 21, 23-24.