

## Back To School

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*by Wayne Goff*

This week most of Kansas City's children will be heading back to school. This requires new clothes, new shoes, a new back pack, writing utensils, paper, etc.

Hopefully, students and teachers will show up with a fresh attitude, ready to begin the new year with enthusiasm. But realistically, most students will have another year like the last one. Those who are motivated will continue to be motivated; those who are there by requirement will do the minimum required and one day wish they had done better.

Interestingly, public school life does not mimic real life. What seems so important when you are in school, among class mates, will one day seem absurd and ridiculous. Amusingly, when we go back to our school reunions ten years, twenty years later, it's so easy to revert back to that old school self! We fall into those old roles we played so many years ago, and when we leave to go back to our real lives it all ends. Most people I have talked to would not go back to that life for anything! Peer pressure is never greater, I think, than when one is in school five days a week, for eight or more hours each day.

What children need to bring to school more than anything else is a sense of self and character! "Who am I? What do I really believe in? What is truly important to me and my life? What can I do to prepare for my future?" These questions are rarely asked by students because they are so obsessed with being accepted.

Parents can help by reminding our children that the really great young people in the Bible overcame life's obstacles with a strong faith -- Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Timothy, etc. A great suggestion would be a brief Bible reading the night before school and several times a week about these great young people. Trained minds can do wonderful things. Left to ourselves, we fall into old ruts.

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