

## Teach Your Children

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by Dan Kleinlein

One of the main responsibilities of parents is to teach their children. That has been true from the beginning. Moses commanded the Israelites in Deuteronomy 4:9 to remember what God has done for them *“and to teach them to your children and your grandchildren.”* In Deuteronomy 6:6, Moses again reminds them that *“these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”* In essence, we are to teach our children 24 hours a day.

Children learn from their parents *verbally* **AND** by our *actions*. We can tell our children to not do this or not do that, but if they see us do it, we *contradict* ourselves and children will usually follow our **actions** over our **words**. Actions speak louder than words. Many children grow up and enter the same occupation as their parents. We must be very careful what we are teaching our children by our words and especially by our actions.

This poem, placed on my mirror, reminded me of this fact every morning:

A careful man, I want to be.  
A little fellow follows me.  
I do not dare to go astray  
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,  
Whatever he sees me do, he tries.  
Like me he says, he's going to be,  
That little chap that follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,  
Believes in every word of mine.  
The bad in me, he must not see.  
My life to him must an example be.

I must remember, as I go  
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,  
I'm building for the years to be,  
For that little chap that follows me.

We all teach by our words and by our actions. Older men teach younger men. Older women teach younger women. Even older children teach younger children. We teach others, whether we intend to or not. We are to be the light to the world. **What are our words and actions teaching other Christians and non-Christians?**

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