

# Faith: You and Your Child

## Reader's Outline

### Introduction:

Remembering what it was like to be a child is the first step to being able to understand children.

### I. Be honest with children from infancy.

- A. Don't say "I'll be right back" when you know it will be hours.
- B. Don't say "I'll buy you a toy" and then forget or refuse to do so.
- C. Don't promise to talk to a teacher about a problem and then decide it is not important.
- D. Don't make up phony excuses - they can discover the truth.

- E. Answer their questions on sickness, death, life, nature, friends, etc., honestly and at their level of understanding.
- II. Allow children to have responsibility they can handle successfully.
- A. Fold clothes.
  - B. Make bed.
  - C. Put up groceries.
  - D. Pick up rooms.
  - E. Get newspaper.
  - F. Mail letters.
  - G. Dust furniture.
  - H. Turn off lights.

### III. Include children in conversations.

- A. Take time to explain things to them, if necessary.
- B. Don't talk about them as if they weren't there when they are present.
- C. If a topic isn't suitable for them to hear, save it for another time rather than telling them to leave.

### IV. Give children clear instructions that are possible to follow.

- A. Don't assume they know what you want and then express disappointment when they fail.
- B. Include them in appropriate family decisions.

V. Let your children see and feel your emotions, so long as they are not out of control.

A. They will not be afraid to let their own emotions show.

VI. Let your children grow up with a healthy self-image.

A. Do not destroy your child with public criticism, humiliation, teasing, or ridicule, which will smother his natural inclination toward openness and creativity.

VII. Take children seriously.

A. Their problems and worries are as great to them as yours are to you.