

# Putting God FIRST

## Seven mistakes the Christian parent can't afford:

- 1. Trying to parent without God:** Put on Christ fresh each morning. God cannot do through you what he does not first do in you. Putting God first means inviting him into YOUR heart.
- 2. Trying to parent without goals:** Most of us parent from urgency to emergency, so mired down in daily necessities that we lose track of God, of what is most important. The one great hope for most of us is a clear set of goals. In choosing your goals consider God's list for his children: *1) that they understand and accept salvation* , 2) that they love one another, 3) they learn right from wrong, 4) they serve him and others, and 5) they are leaders and teachers and not followers. Putting God first means writing down and holding on to Godly goals.
- 3. Putting rules over relationship:** God's way of parenting his children is to focus on their need more than their behavior. The importance of rules is made very clear in the Old Testament. The New Testament however points to something more important than rules. It points to love...to relationship. Be a New Testament Parent. Give your children so much love that it births in them a desire to please. What rule breakers need most is equal parts of correction and encouragement flowing from sincere love.
- 4. Letting the sun go down on our anger:** ("Don't give the Devil a foothold" Eph. 4:27) Next time you tell your child "Talk don't Hit" remember that it won't work if he has *no one to talk to...* no one to help him learn self control and no one to help him solve the problem that made or continues to make him angry. When your child is angry go to him, not away from him. Putting God first means helping our children take their hurts and frustrations to God so that Satan (anger) does not get a foothold.

**5. Trying to parent without DAILY Bible verses:** God's word is meant to comfort, correct, encourage, protect and much more. Bible verses are meant to be USED. Put a bowl somewhere in your home and when your children have a need offer them a Bible verse. If you have trouble finding child sized printable Bible verses try a visit to [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com). Putting God first means AT LEAST one verse a day every day.

**6. Not inviting your child's friends to church:** *The idea is to influence your children's friends before they influence your child.* In a few short years, your child's friends will influence your child almost as much as you, so invite them to church. Another good idea is to have friends' night at your home at least once a month. Putting God first means fellowship with other Christians and reaching out to the unsaved.

**7. Raising Children who are more dependent on you than on God:** Part of love is protecting a child... keeping them under your umbrella and safe. A larger part of love is giving them umbrellas of their own... making a daily quiet time (prayer time) a HABIT they learn early in life. There is nothing like a daily quiet time to make God personal and real. A good starting place is the Lord's Prayer. One great website (hosted by The Christian Child Care Coalition) is [www.teachustoprayer.com](http://www.teachustoprayer.com). Putting God first means spending time with him, such as in daily prayer.

Hidden in this article are seven ACTions parents can take. To be a doer not just a hearer, TRY one or all of the following:

1. Let Jesus save you.
2. Make a list of Goals.
3. Invite your children's friends to church.
4. Visit [www.bibleparent.com](http://www.bibleparent.com) and fill a bowl or basket with Bible verses.
5. Teach your children The Lord's Prayer and make prayer time (quiet time) a habit in your home.
- 6&7: We edited them out of the article but highly recommend you check out a book on anger by Dr. Campbell "Kids in Danger" and visit the book reviews webpage offered by Focus on the Family.