

# Instilling Biblical Character

---

100+ Tips and Resources to Train Our Children



[BlessedBeyondADoubt.com](http://BlessedBeyondADoubt.com)

Copyright © 2012 Jill Craft  
<http://www.blessedbeyondadoubt.com>

All rights reserved worldwide.

No part of this document or the related files may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, by any means (electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without the prior written permission of the publisher.

All your children shall be taught by the Lord,  
and great shall be the peace of your children.

--Isaiah 54:13

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction .....	1
What is Biblical character training?.....	2
How do you train your child in Biblical character when you are working on it yourself? .....	4
How do you teach children to love prayer? .....	7
How do you curb the complaining spirits in your children that tend to stick around? .....	11
What are your favorite books on character besides the Bible?...	14
What is the best way to get the children's attention for school/chores when they are engrossed in play?.....	17
What are some ways to encourage Biblical character training?..	23
Suggested Resources .....	25

## Introduction

---

This ebook is compiled of all the Mommy Time Facebook Party Q & A's during the hour dedicated to Biblical Character Training for Children.

All the answers and replies were taken from my gracious sponsors:

[Keepers of the Faith](#)  
[Deeper Roots Publications](#)  
[We Choose Virtues](#)  
[Grapevine Bible Studies](#)  
and [Blessed Beyond a Doubt](#)'s readers

Answers may have been slightly modified for reading purposes but are true to conversation.

I pray that you will glean Godly wisdom from the experts and everyday mommies just like you and me.

None of us are perfect, and, thankfully, He grants us new mercies everyday when we plead for forgiveness.

We serve a mighty God who will equip us for the high calling of motherhood.

May we give Him all the glory!

## **What is Biblical character training?**

---

Being mentored by spiritually mature Christians.

**Christina**

Jesus is the greatest example!

[Blessed Beyond a Doubt](#)

Training that is based on God instead of man.

[Keepers of the Faith](#)

Relating our lives to the people of the Bible.

**Amy D.**

It's those moments in life that happen when we can infuse faith with the practical for our children. The real moments enable them to understand and apply what God tells us.

**Daisyhead**

Aligning our hearts and minds toward God's character.

**Nickie H.**

It is teaching and training your kids what kind of person God is asking them to be. It's showing them what character is in the way that they understand and teaching them to turn to the Lord to help them.

[We Choose Virtues](#)

I think giving our children a Christ-like example to follow, teaching them what we believe, why we believe it, and all about the grace that helps us when we falter.

[Meet Penny](#)

Having strong Christians in your daily life...

[Reading List](#)

Teaching lessons based on scripture ideas like diligence, gentleness, love, etc.

**Ryan K**

By showing your kids a life that is not perfect but a life that is pursuing God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

[Grapevine Bible Studies](#)

Biblical character training in my opinion is taking a lesson from people like David. For example, regarding the struggles they endured and how they overcame. It's walking the more difficult path, because it's the right path.

**Karen E.**

The development of Godly character is the result of spiritual growth through consistent Bible study and life experience. The main goal of Bible study must be to "know God."

[Deeper Roots Publications](#)

Teaching by reading and understanding stories in the Bible.

**Kelly H.**

## **How do you train your child in Biblical character when you are working on it yourself?**

---

Teaching from the Bible, and explaining to my children that I am still a work in progress. I loved my Dad's transparency when I was growing up.

**Kristina C.**

With humility. Be honest with your children. Ask forgiveness when needed. Work together to build character after Christ.

**[Keepers of the Faith](#)**

When things in our family get us down, I often refer to Job and how he held on to God through it all.

**Amy D.**

PRAY! LOL! Practice and read the Bible together.

**Ryan K.**

First, we must admit that we are all sinners, and we will mess up. That is why we need a Savior, because we can't do it in our own flesh.

**[Blessed Beyond a Doubt](#)**

Easy--we use our fallbacks as examples.

**Angela N.**



One of the best ways is to model character in our everyday life. We can even model what God wants us to do when we fail—humbly ask forgiveness of the one offended and confession of our sin out loud.

**Deeper Roots Publications**

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 talks about walking and teaching as you go. God doesn't expect perfect parents to teach them, just parents learning and being real. Tell them, show them, and then encourage them.

**Grapevine Bible Studies**

Examplifying grace & forgiveness daily, offering a heart of excellence versus a heart of perfection.

**Nicki H.**

The good news is we don't have to be perfect before we teach our children. We are all maturing, yet able to teach the truth.

**Laura K.**

It's encouraging to kids to see that their parents aren't perfect and are working on the very same things that they are.

**We Choose Virtues**

By a thorough example. No need to preach, just live your life in the cleanest manner as you can.

**Mary A.**

I am still working on this.

**Amy B.**

By letting my kids see me repent. Daily. Yes, I'm a wreck, but they know I know it.

**Cindy D.**

It's a work in progress!

**Amy S.**

We work on it together daily. Letting them see that no "man", including momma is perfect and we all need grace.

**Julie C.**

I'm always working on this and praying about what we are going through and need help with!

**Kelly H.**

Pray! And sharing what I am learning. And learning together as we go.

**[A Classic Housewife in a Modern World](#)**

By sharing how you're working on it. Be real. Admit your need for a God who is the Perfect Parent.

**[This Reading Mama](#)**

I have decided to pick one or two and just work on them (all of us) for a month or a year at a time.

**Heather F.**

## **How do you teach children to love prayer?**

By praying with them often. And sharing about prayers that have been answered as well. As they see that God hears us-- and them-- it stirs their hearts to pray more often. And it grows their love of God!

**The daisyhead**

Model it before them; talk about answered prayers.

**Sandy N.**

By loving God. Prayer is a relationship between your God and you, and by modeling this relationship and teaching your children to love God with all their hearts, souls, and bodies, they will want to spend time with Him, just as Jesus did with His Father.

**Susan Z.**

Asking God to give them a heart to love Him & to love talking to Him (& for myself too!)

**We Choose Virtues**

I've been lucky. Mine just started loving their prayers. They take it so seriously, and it's really cute.

**Amy B.**

Pray as often as I can with them around! :) ♥ and pray with Him as much as he wants to ... and tell him he can talk to God all the time!

**Amy K.**

Model it, pray on their level, & include things that matter to them.

**Hope D.**

With my littlest one, I do fill-in-the-blank prayers. It gets her started, and then she is off and running.

**Cheryl S.**

We pray daily. If they don't love it now, they'll still think of it as the comfort of home later.

**Cindy D.**

Keep it real, conversational & relevant... on their level!

**Nickie H.**

By praying with them.

**Jenny M.**

We let the girls tell us one thing they are thankful for when we lay them down at night and make sure to pray and thank God for that no matter how simple or "off the wall" it is.

**Karen W.**

Praying with them.

**Kelly H.**

Keep it conversational and personal.

**Julie C.**

Making prayer like conversing regularly with God. Like any good relationship, talking is important. I wouldn't like it if they didn't talk to me. Our heavenly Father doesn't want us to stop talking to Him either.

**Jeanine F.**

Being ready to pray and give thanks for things in the moment that they happen. It is usually when I'm in a hurry that I forget to pray, but children need to pray in that moment that it is in their minds. Are they happy about a sunny day and going to the park? Pray and give thanks before you leave to go somewhere or maybe on your way home. Are they upset about hitting their sister because they are angry? Pray and give thanks for God's forgiveness and pray for patience.

**Amanda K.**

I try to express to the children that we should pray constantly. I also try to encourage them to pray many times a day.

**Lori M.**

I found that teaching a love for prayer comes from praying with my children, but when we started praying for unreached people groups in the world, we all really felt energized to pray. It led us into an interest in geography and culture.

**[Deeper Roots Publications](#)**

I've found it comes from modeling that prayer is simply talking to your best friend any time, any place; no matter how you feel. So many Christian families only pray at meal time or bedtime and they are these "canned" prayers. Kids need to see a real God meeting their real needs and prayer is the vehicle.

**[This Reading Mama](#)**

## **How do you curb the complaining spirits in your children that tend to stick around?**

---

Remind them of the importance & rewards of thankfulness!

**Nickie H.**

I use scripture! We see what God says about that, and then they have to write out the scripture! Just keep on it until they get it.

**Sonya S.**

I use duct tape! Totally kidding!

**Blessed Beyond a Doubt**

For every verbal complaint have them give a verbal praise or thanksgiving. Complaining is a habit and so is thankfulness!

**Susan Z.**

I like to ask, "Is your wanter under control?" (From Cake Jake's *I am Content*) Back to the virtue cards.

**We Choose Virtues**

I remind her of all the blessings in her life and that God giveth and He taketh away.

**Amy D.**

I remind him that everything we have is a gift and a blessing from God and that there are so many others without the things he is complaining for, and when all else fails--distraction method :P and some good hugs!

**Amy K.**

It is important that kids know that complaining is sin. I like to start thanking God for the very basic everyday things we all take for granted. If they are complaining about cleaning the room, it's "Thank you, God, for hands and arms. Thank you for a place to put all my toys. Thank you for all my toys. Etc..."

**Sherri M.**

I'd like to know, too. We have a big time complainer here, too. We've tried to say, hey - look at the good stuff that is going on, too. He still complains...

**Kate Peterson**

Encourage the grateful thoughts and words.

**Jessica Tewksbury**

Two ideas really caught my interest! I LOVE Susan Schultz Zakula's idea! For every verbal complaint you have to give a verbal praise! I'll be starting that tomorrow! The second one is DUCT TAPE!! Lol it comes in such pretty colors and patterns these days!

**Virginia M.**



I tell them this is a no whining zone. Want to complain go to your room and do it.

**Latifah D.**

## What are your favorite books on character besides the Bible?

---

Anything from Doorposts!

**Jeanine F.**

*Hero Tales*. It was part of our first Sonlight Core, and I fell in love with it. I now own all 3 volumes. :)

**The daisyhead**

I have a book I got years ago. It's called *Character Counts*. It gives character traits of Jesus, then gives a more modern example and how to implement it in your life.

**Suz N.**

I love *Hero Tales*, too!

**[Blessed Beyond a Doubt](#)**

*Manners Matter* is a great book.

**Nickie H.**

We Choose Virtues' Parenting Cards. It's something you can do in 5 minutes or longer. And the catchphrases stick with you, so you can work on it all day long :)

**[We Choose Virtues](#)**

We have a series of books from [Veggie Tales](#) on character.

**[Meet Penny](#)**

When my daughter was younger, I loved reading Veggie Tales books to her and watching the dvd's.

**Amy D.**

We do Veggie Tales right now and love them!

**Kelly H.**

I am loving BOZ Books and DVD's :)

**Amy K.**

My youngest ones who I am teaching right now are 4 and 2, so we use Veggie Tales for now.

**Brandi H.**

I really like Doorposts, also.

**Diana D.**

I'm just looking into this now, so looking forward to ideas. I do love Doorposts and the chart by the author of *Don't Make Me Count to Three*.

**Audra S.**

Veggie Tales for sure

**Brenda E.**

Veggie Tales:)

**Wendy B.**

*Pilgrim's Progress*

**Stacie M.**

*Little House on the Prairie*, for sure. There is another book that I did read aloud with my kids last year, and I am racking my brain trying to remember the title of it. It was fantastic for character training. I'll repost if I can find it.

**Leanne W.**

## **What is the best way to get the children's attention for school/chores when they are engrossed in play?**

---

Make it fun!!!

**Hannah B.**

I believe that by talking to them down on their level helps them to better understand what you are trying to accomplish as well as showing them what they need to do.

**Nicole K.**

Give them a warning first..."in 10 minutes we need to..." Then again at five minutes, and sometimes at one or two

**Karen W.**

If it's something important, we use when/then... when you clean/finish homework/etc., then you can finish this. If it's something that can wait, then we let it wait.

**Jessica F.**

Tell them they can play after they have obeyed. At least that's how it goes at our house! ;)

**Jennifer G.**

Do chores along side them. I find when we all start to pitch in, my son is much more willing.

**This Reading Mama**

For small children, transition songs and finger plays are wonderful.

**Lori M.**

We give reminders... "You have 10 more minutes... You have 5 more minutes... You have 2 minutes. Please clean up what you were doing and get ready for XYZ"

**Selfridge**

I just bought a bell for this year. We'll see...:)

**We Choose Virtues**

Have a schedule for school, chores, and play. It eliminates the problem.

**Susan Z.**

I warn my 4 year old, "In five minutes, I need you to clean up your room/start school, etc." That gives him some time to finish up whatever he is playing with instead of just saying, "Let's go do this/clean this/start school. I kind of reward their chores/schoolwork with play time.

**Kate P.**

I give a warning that they have X number of minutes left to play, and then it is time to clean up so we can work on chores. Then I let them know what treat or fun activity will follow the chores, so they have something to look forward to.

**Danielle G.**

Get down on their level, make eye contact, and ask in a firm, quiet voice. When they do it right away, reward them with praise!

**Sara O.**

I tend to be cleaning while they are playing. At some point, I warn them that when I finish X, we are all going to work on Y together.

**Jen S.**

Easy! If they don't want to stop when it's chore time, they can lose the privilege of playing with it when the chores are done. =) I give them a few minutes of warning, "You need to start wrapping up, and in 3 minutes you need to put it down." And then if there's whining, a warning of "If you complain, you will lose the privilege of playing with it again later. Be obedient, please." After that, no more warnings. (If it continues past that there are more consequences.) =S

### **A Classic Housewife in a Modern World**

Just pretend you are on the phone, and they will surely come immediately! It works every time. lol!

### **Blessed Beyond a Doubt**

I remind them that we have to do our work before we play. I do try to catch them and keep them on track before they try to play which helps.

**Audra S.**



I ♥ schedules!

**Blessed Beyond a Doubt**

Say, "Come on. Let's go!" When it's time, it's time!

**Ryan K.**

Give a 5 minute warning before school time. Either that or let them finish what they are playing and then draw them into school time.

**MomKaboodle**

Oh, I kind of give them a run down of the day, too, so they know what to expect.

**Jen S.**

Teaching them that a lot of what they get is earned and that helping around the house and doing school work is the way they help within our family.

**April E.**

Having a desk with a wind chime that's pretty to hear. It always gets them running to do it themselves.

**Jessica W.**

That's where "I am diligent" and "I am obedient" are taught, too.

### **We Choose Virtues**

Schedule! :) Same thing at the same time everyday :) They know it's chore time when the schedule says "Chore Time". I even made my little ones a "What to do the minute you step out of bed schedule" :) IT WORKED :)

**Heather F.**

## **What are some ways to encourage Biblical character training?**

---

I like to pray with each of my children when they are not demonstrating good character.

### **Blessed Beyond a Doubt**

I think it goes a LONG way when you "catch" them doing the right thing and make a BIG deal about it. They want your attention. When they do something that gets it, they repeat it, even if it is something bad, so giving LOTS of attention for something great is more likely to encourage them to repeat that behavior.

**Suz N.**

We memorize highly applicable memory verses. =)  
Among other things. =)

### **A Classic Housewife in a Modern World**

With my son I encourage him to do so-and-so like his dad. For example: "I need you to help me and work hard like Abba." (We go by Abba and Ima.) Children want to be like their parents.

**Mark-A.**

By setting a good example. They learn from us, and they see how we handle every situation, good and bad.

**Amy D.**

Reminding them, "You can do it! I believe in you!"

**We Choose Virtues**

## Suggested Resources

---

[We Choose Virtues](#)  
[Grapevine Bible Studies](#)  
[Keepers of the Faith](#)  
[Deeper Roots Publication](#)  
[Veggie Tales DVD](#)  
[Veggie Tale Character Books](#)  
[Little House on the Prairie](#)  
[Pilgrim Progress](#)  
[BOZ Books and DVD's](#)  
[Manners Matter: Living the Golden Rule](#)  
[Hero Tales](#)  
[Character Counts](#)

The Mommy Time Facebook Party Team loves to share their hearts relating to Biblical parenting tips. I encourage you to subscribe to these inspiring blogs. They have been true blessings to me.

Sarah at [Side Tracked Sarah](#)

Autumn at [A Classic Housewife in a Modern World](#)

Tabitha at [Meet Penny](#)

A special thanks to Melinda for her editing expertise provided in this ebook. Without Melinda, this book would not exist. Visit Melinda at [Christian Ebook Editing](#). She offers excellent and affordable editing services.

