



5. Disciple the mind, heart and will.

Summary: For children to personally know, embrace, and apply biblical truth, we need to disciple the mind, heart, and will. Toward that end, we must diligently instruct the mind, providing them with the proper tools and skills needed to rightly read, study, interpret, and apply Scripture.

While fully acknowledging that only God can bring Spirit-wrought, grace-dependent faith in Jesus, and lead us to walk as His faithful disciples, it is our responsibility to engage the heart—to guide, inspire, and implore children toward a personal and sincere response to God’s truth.

Finally, true saving faith will be evidenced by a growing desire to walk in obedience to God. While this is dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit, God does expect His children to exert effort, choosing daily to trust Christ, submit to Him, and follow in obedience. Therefore, we guide, challenge, and encourage students to specific Christ-like thoughts, words, and actions.

Application at church:

- Encourage your children’s workers to read *Teaching to Change Lives* by Howard Hendricks or *Creative Bible Teaching* by Lawrence Richards.
- Distribute the Truth 78 Core Training Series document on [Leading Small Group Application](#) to your children’s workers.
- Incorporate an “application time” (a time to engage the heart and influence the will after the Bible lesson) in your Sunday school and/or midweek classes.
- Distribute the Truth 78 Core Training Series document [Preparing and Teaching a Lesson](#) to your children’s workers.
- Encourage your teachers to listen to the Truth78 seminar [The Importance of Biblical Literacy in the Next Generation](#) and to read the article [Encouraging Active Minds in the Classroom](#).
- Train your children’s workers how to have application discussions with children.
- Gather your children’s workers together to listen to small group application and small group leading seminars and discuss ideas for implementation in each

classroom. [Reaching the Heart: The Importance of Application](#) and [Small Group Leading: Nuts and Bolts](#)

- Encourage your teachers to listen to the Truth 78 seminar [Teaching to Reach the Heart](#)
- Make the parenting books listed below (Application at Home) available in your church library or bookstore. Consider gifting new parents with one of these books when their first child is born (or the first child born since attending your church).

Application at home:

- Read one or more of the following books: *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp, *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd and Margy Tripp, *Teach Them Diligently* by Lou Priolo, *The Disciplemaking Parent* by Chap Bettis, *Gospel-Powered Parenting* by Bill Farley
- When you "walk by the way" make practical application of Bible truths or verses to everyday situations.
- Teach the catechism to your children. (See [Discipleship through Doctrinal Teaching and Catechism](#) for rationale, ideas and resources.)
- As a couple, make a strategic plan as to how you will disciple the mind, heart and will of your child. Be specific and start with one simple idea.
- Use [The Inductive Bible Study Handbook](#) in your instruction of older elementary children and youth.
- Have a regular [family devotional time](#).

Resources:

- Scope and sequence explanation
<https://www.truth78.org/scope-sequence-explanation>
- *Discipleship through Doctrinal Teaching and Catechism*
<https://www.truth78.org/discipleship-through-doctrinal-teaching-and-catechism>
- *Mothers: Disciplers of the Next Generations*
<https://www.truth78.org/mothers-disciplers-of-the-next-generations>
- Recommended resources for Christian education directors
 - *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* by Dr. Howard Hendricks
<https://www.amazon.com/Teaching-Change-Lives-Seven-Proven/dp/1590521382>
 - *Creative Bible Teaching* by Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt
<https://www.amazon.com/Creative-Bible-Teaching-Lawrence-Richards/dp/0802416446>

- Recommended resources for parents
 - *Gospel-Powered Parenting: How the Gospel Shapes and Transforms Parenting* by William P. Farley
<https://www.amazon.com/Gospel-Powered-Parenting-Gospel-Shapes-Transforms/dp/1596381353>
 - *The Disciple-Making Parent: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Raising Your Children to Love and Follow Jesus Christ* by Chap Bettis
<https://www.amazon.com/Disciple-Making-Parent-Comprehensive-Guidebook-Children-ebook/dp/B01DTD7EA8>
 - *Teach them Diligently: How to Use the Scriptures in Child Training* by Lou Priolo
<https://www.amazon.com/Teach-Them-Diligently-Scriptures-Training/dp/1889032603>
 - *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp
<https://www.amazon.com/Shepherding-Childs-Heart-Tedd-Tripp/dp/0966378601>
 - *Instructing a Child's Heart* by Tedd and Margy Tripp
<https://www.amazon.com/Instructing-Childs-Heart-Tedd-Tripp/dp/0981540007>