



## The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life

By Scott Turansky, Joanne Miller RN

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### The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life By Scott Turansky, Joanne Miller RN

Nuggets of parenting wisdom condensed into 50 short chapters, each one biblical, practical, and relevant for parents of children ages 2-18. Learn appropriate ways to correct, instruct, and set limits. Glean wisdom for dealing with emotions, conflict, and developing closeness in your family... and much more. These 50 strategies provide you with hands-on tools for parenting children of any age.

#### In this book you'll learn how to:

- Identify character qualities to address problems
- Build internal motivation
- Transfer responsibility for change to the child
- Teach kids to be solvers instead of whiners
- Use creativity to teach your kids spiritual truths
- Avoid the "boxing ring"
- Envision a positive future
- And much more!

With these strategies you'll be able to move from behavior modification to a heart-based approach to parenting. Instead of relying on rewards, incentives, threats, and punishment, you'll learn how to identify heart lessons to teach your child *and* implement them in practical ways.

*The Christian Parenting Handbook* by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting, compiles fifty parenting principles that use heart-based strategies to teach you how to face daily challenges. When parents focus on the heart, kids learn to ask different questions about life. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" they learn to ask, "What's the *right* thing to do?" You'll soon see how a heart-based approach to parenting looks deeper and brings about greater, lasting change.

The daily interaction you have with your children can impact them for the rest of

their lives. With these fifty heart-based strategies, you'll develop your own biblical philosophy of parenting and gain perspective, greater motivation, and confidence that you're moving in the right direction. As you envision a positive future for your children, they'll experience hope and direction and you will too. Start applying these principles today!

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## **Editorial Review**

Review

*Insightful, practical, encouraging, and, as always, focused on reaching a child's heart rather than merely changing behavior.* --Karl Bastian, The Kidologist, founder and president of Kidology.org

*A must read for all parents no matter what faith or stage of life. This book is chocked full of practical strategies you can implement today!* --Eric and Jennifer Garcia, Association of Marriage & Family Ministries

*Readers will mine nuggets of silver and gold on every page. I did!* --Mark Steiner, President DiscipleLand.com

*Whether you have toddlers or teens, the Bible-driven principles in this book have the power to change your family l, for generations to come!* --Dr. Rob Rienow, Founder of Visionary Family Ministries

*The format of this book provides parents with practical advice I have come to expect from the founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting.* --Kenneth Priest, Team Leader, Leadership Ministries, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

*An artfully concise and biblically deep perspective for parents that dives into mattes of the heart facing every child . . . highly recommended!* --Michael Chanley, Executive Director, International Network of Children's Ministry

*I will definitely be recommending this book to all the single parent families I work with and to children's ministers who call looking for parenting books.* --Linda Ranson Jacobs, DC4K Creator and Ambassador, Single Parenting Expert

*Parents learn a biblical approach that aims at shaping the heart of their child rather than only outward actions. This is a handbook--practical and thorough--that will be used throughout the years of parenting!* --Dr. Roger Theimer, Children's Pastor and coauthor of Faith Legacy Series

From the Author

This is a book of ideas. As parents, we need all the ideas we can find. Each child is unique, and the same tools don't work with every one. Furthermore, parenting ideas that had an impact last year may need some tweaking, because your child continues to develop and change.

The suggestions in this book will help you be a better parent. But you need more than ideas. In the parenting field, ideas are a dime a dozen. Everyone has an opinion of what's best when it comes to parenting. You probably have more ideas now than you can use. What you want to know is how. I'm sure you'd take a cup of implementation over a bucket of ideas any day. Ideas are easy. Implementation is hard, because that's where things get complicated.

Every child is unique, and every family has its own set of dynamics. Parents are eager to know how to take ideas and put them into practice. In this book we help you with that. But do even more than help you apply

the changes. Each chapter in this book can contribute to your biblical philosophy of parenting.

A philosophy is a way of thinking, a framework of ideas and theories. Our goal is to help you develop a biblical structure from which you'll be able to pick and choose from the advice and suggestions you'll receive in order to determine the best strategy for your home.

By weaving together God's Word with practical applications, you'll begin to develop patterns that will make a tremendous difference in your life and the lives of your children. Paul warned in Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." That warning is important for parents, because our world is full of ideas, and many of them are unhelpful, resting on tradition instead of godliness.

Instead, you can develop a parenting philosophy that's based on a solid theology of God and his plan for life. Some elements of a biblical philosophy of parenting will be the same for every parent. Relying on God's Word as the authority, passing faith from parents to children, and teaching kids to live lives that follow Christ are important in every home.

But many elements of a biblical philosophy of parenting will differ from parent to parent. Some will emphasize a more relational approach, where others are more firm. Some children need more structure than others to move them forward. The formation of a unique, yet biblical approach to parenting provides parents with a way to think and act that's best for their family situation.

The ideas represented in the chapters of this book will guide your thinking. You may choose to emphasize some more than others. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to develop your own unique approach. The common factor is reliance on God's Word for the development of your own philosophy of parenting.

Furthermore, you'll make adjustments along the way as you grow in Christ. In fact, before you get too far into this book, we suggest you create a quick action list, a reminder of what you want to do as you read through the chapters. Alongside your to-do list, though, we hope you'll create a thinklist, identifying key principles and concepts you'll use to guide your thinking over time. Each item on these lists represents a piece of your strategy, a biblical way of thinking about parenting and working with children. Together they'll help you formulate your own biblical philosophy of parenting.

In essence, you'll develop a mission statement and a vision for your home and for each of your kids. As you consider the principles in this book, you'll find yourself carving out a parenting style. You'll take your personality and allow it to be molded by a biblical framework and a grace-based, heart-based approach to parenting.

In the end you'll find yourself growing faster than you had imagined in your ability to parent effectively. Bear in mind that a heart-based approach to parenting involves strategic thinking, planning, and implementation. An idea is only an idea until it takes wings and flies into your home. It's not enough to have a good idea. You'll want to plan for its implementation as well. That's why many of the chapters contain specific words you may use in your family.

Our desire is to help you transfer good ideas into practical application that shape the way your family relates. As you formulate your own biblical parenting philosophy, please keep these principles in mind:

1. Begin with prayer, and ask your heavenly Father for wisdom, grace, patience, and perseverance. Praise God for progress and glimpses of maturity you see in your child.

2. Build on a biblical foundation. First and foremost, the Bible is the authority. It's amazing how many passages in Scripture apply to the family. Look at the Bible as God's training guide for life, and you'll discover many, many biblical truths that will impact your parenting. Every chapter in this book contains scripture to guide your thinking and mold your ideas.
3. Think long term. Maintain perspective by moving from the small picture to the big picture. Daily interactions are pieces of something much bigger. Misbehavior happens in patterns that reveal issues of the heart. Correcting any one instance can fit into a greater strategy to move kids toward maturity.
4. Remember what's most important. Focus on those things, and leave the rest for another time. To be most strategic in your approach, avoid "reactive parenting."
5. Watch for variations on a theme. It's not just about the moment. It's about life. Many times the challenges you face now fit into the bigger picture of the change that's needed.
6. Focus on the heart. Develop parenting plans that help children overcome internal roadblocks for the long term, not just current behavior problems. More than anything else, we want this book to challenge you to think biblically, assess your situation, make adjustments in your parenting, and help your children move forward.

We've compiled a list of fifty parenting principles that we believe to be the best we've seen over the years. We've worked with thousands of families and taught hundreds of parenting seminars. We've initiated many Bible studies and research projects. We've received tens of thousands of feedback forms. Out of it all, we've found fifty strategies that can make a significant difference.

With the information in this book, we believe you'll be able to develop a personal framework for parenting success. With strategic thinking and planning, you'll face daily challenges with more perspective, greater motivation, and confidence that you're moving in the right direction.

Remember that God is the one who changes hearts, both yours and your child's, so read this book prayerfully, allowing God to speak to you about your relationship with him and what he wants for you and your family.

It's our prayer that you will find hope and wisdom in this book. Parenting is a journey requiring all the wisdom you can get, but having a biblical parenting philosophy in place will help you navigate through the challenges with greater ease and more confidence in God's grace at work in your life.

#### About the Author

Dr. Scott Turansky and his wife, Carrie, have five children. Josh is married to Melinda and they have three children. Melissa is a registered nurse, married to Peter, and working on two Masters Degrees in New York City. Ben is married to Galan. He is a US Marine stationed in Alabama. Megan and Elizabeth are twins, working full time as pet groomers and living nearby.

Scott has co-authored twelve books on parenting and speaks around the country teaching parenting seminars in churches and schools. He and Joanne use drama, practical stories, and the scriptures to teach biblical principles of parenting.

Joanne Miller, RN, BSN and her husband, Ed, have two grown sons, Dave and Tim. Joanne has been a pediatric nurse since 1986 and is a public speaker. She is a co-author, with Scott of "Parenting is Heart

Work," along with several other books on parenting. She delights in helping children change their hearts, not just their behavior.

Dr. Turansky and Mrs. Miller are the co-founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting, an organization that offers Christian parenting Conferences and biblical parenting resources for churches and individual parents. They also started Biblical Parenting University to provide online biblical training for parents, Sunday School teachers and Christian School teachers.

The Turanskys and the Millers have been in ministry together since 1988. They teach parenting seminars as outreach to the community through churches all over the US. Their books, videos, workbooks, and parent training materials focus on the heart to help children make lasting changes. Using humor, stories, and the scriptures they give parents the practical help they can use right now.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Harvey Hobbs:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life book as beginner and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Ashley Parra:**

The event that you get from The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life may be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood simply by anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this specific The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life instantly.

#### **Homer Douglas:**

Reading a book being new life style in this yr; every people loves to learn a book. When you study a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such us novel, comics, along with soon. The The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life provide

you with a new experience in studying a book.

**James Newman:**

That guide can make you to feel relax. This book *The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life* was colourful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book *The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life* has many kinds or type. Start from kids until young adults. For example *Naruto* or *Investigator Conan* you can read and think that you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading that will.

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