

Growing Up

Galatians 4:19-20 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, ²⁰ how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! NIV

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. NIV

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. NIV

Emphasize doing over learning.

John 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. NIV

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. NIV

John 14:15 [Jesus said,] “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” NIV

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. NIV

Emphasize being over doing.

John 15:3-4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. NIV

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” NIV

Luke 11:42 [Jesus said,] “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.” NIV

John 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. NIV

Emphasize loving over receiving.

Philippians 2:19-21 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. (NIV)

Mark 10:45 [Jesus said,] “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” NIV

Acts 20:35 “In everything I [Paul] did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” NIV