

Christian Families Present An Accurate Picture of God

Introduction

Our society sends out many messages about God. The messages might simply be “In God We Trust,” or a “God bless America” at the end of a political speech. But they might also include jokes or irreverent statements about God. Christian parents have the privilege and responsibility to make sure that their children are taught the correct picture of our gracious God.

Scripture

Isaiah 6:1-7

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Psalm 103:8-13

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

John 8:1-11

(Summary of John 8:1-6: Pharisees and teachers of the law attempt to trap Jesus in his words. They bring to him a woman caught in adultery and remind him that, according to Old Testament law, she should be stoned.)

7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

Study

1. Isaiah’s description of God’s glory reminds us that we are small and that God is a big God. Why is it important for our children to capture from us this view of God?

2. Isaiah is filled with awe and humility in God's presence, yet God teaches him that he is also approachable. How can parents demonstrate to their children that God is both big, yet also approachable?

3. In Psalm 103, the psalmist reminds us that God is a loving Father. How does the treatment of our children model the Father's treatment of us?

4. What benefit do our children receive when we confess that we, as their parents, have not always dealt with them in the same perfect way our Lord has dealt with us?

5. How does Jesus model forgiving love in his treatment of the adulterous woman?

6. Why is modeling forgiveness one of the most important aspects of Christian parenting?