

Mothers

Luke 2:52 tells us the ingredients for proper child growth and development: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” This passage focuses on four aspects of children’s growth and development important to the work of mothers. *Wisdom* reflects intellectual growth; *stature*, physical growth; *favor with God*, spiritual growth; and *men*, social growth. Our abundant free and public institutions place intellectual, physical and social growth within easy reach of all, even our less well-off families. Mothers, just as fathers, must see to this total education of their children. “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Tim 5:8.

The physical growth and development of children.

Mothers should attend to the spiritual growth and development of their children. If mothers do not teach and nurture children spiritually, who will? Lois, the grandmother, and Eunice, the mother, of Timothy passed down their “sincere faith” to him (2 Tim 1:5). Indeed, they instructed him from infancy in the Scriptures: “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Tim 3:14-15.

The spiritual development of children.

Mothers should commit to the spiritual development of their children. They must actively pursue training and education for them:

- Have your children at all the services of the church where they grow unto salvation. Peter tells us: “. . . as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” 1 Pet 2:2.
- Teach them to be workers who do not need to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15).
- Train your girls and young ladies that when they grow up, they should love their husbands and children and that they should be self-controlled, pure, busy at home, and kind (Titus 2:4-5).

- Train your boys and young men to be self-controlled (Titus 2:6).

The role of the mother.

The New Testament instructs mothers how to do this teaching. “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech . . .” Titus 2:7. The example of a Godly mother says more than words. The mother should teach her children to hear the instruction of their father and don’t forsake the law of their mother (Prov 1:8). At the same time, children should love the Lord more than they love their father or their mother (Mt 10:37).

Conclusion.

As with fathers, so it is with mothers. **Mothers are responsible for the total education of their children, especially the spiritual education.**

Study questions.

1. In what four ways did Jesus grow? _____

2. What did Lois and Eunice pass down to Timothy? _____

3. How do children benefit from attending all the services of the church? _____

4. What are we to teach girls and young ladies? _____

5. What are we to teach boys and young men? _____

6. How should children react to the law of their mother? _____

7. For what part of a child’s education is the mother responsible? _____
