

# **Raising Children to Know the Lord**

By Pastor Kevin Lea – Nov 16, 2008

*When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who **did not know the LORD** nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, ----- and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; --- and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths [gods of immorality]. Judges 2:10-13 NKJ*

Surveys of Christian families in America reveal that few children are embracing true Christianity when they reach adulthood. Why is this? And what can parents do to try and prevent this sad statistic from coming true in their family? I think the answer is found in these verses from the book of Judges.

The Israelis who “**did not know the LORD**” were the ones who did not know “**the work which He had done for Israel.**” Therefore, if we can instill in our children knowledge of the work that God has done for us, they can also “know the Lord” in adulthood.

What is the work which God has done? For the Jews, His work included taking them across the Jordan River on dry ground, making the walls of Jericho fall down, giving them victory over the Canaanite armies, God’s judgment against unrighteousness (as in the case of Achan hiding the accursed things in his tent), and much, much more. Through these experiences, the Jews grew to **know**, love, and respect the holy God they served.

For Christians, God’s greatest work on our behalf is salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus – believing that God has forgiven our sins through Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross, authenticated by His resurrection from the dead. By saving us, God has delivered us from eternal judgment in hell for our sins, promised us everlasting life in heaven, and given us His Holy Spirit as a guarantee that some day He will take us to be with Him forever! Believers also receive the many promises God has made to those that are His children, including His promise to never leave us, to meet our every need, to answer our prayers, and to work all things together for our good!

As parents, we rejoice when our young children pray at meals and recite memory verses from Sunday school. However, we must not allow our children to grow up thinking these “religious” acts make them okay with God. We must work diligently to instill in our sons and daughters the knowledge that **their** sins have separated them from God, and emphasize that **they** must have their own faith in the work which God has done for them on the cross to save them from hell. We must also be diligent in sharing God’s work in our lives on a daily basis through answers to prayer and life circumstances that reveal the love and goodness of our great God. If your teenager can admit they are a sinner but rejoice that they are saved by faith in the shed blood of Jesus for **them**, and if they can talk about God’s work in their daily lives, then the parent can rejoice that their children will go through life “knowing the Lord” because they have seen and experienced the miraculous WORK OF GOD in them.