



Training our Children

There's a plaque in our pediatrician's office of a cute, childlike train with these words underneath: *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it* (Proverbs 22:6). How true! When we direct children to the right path, even when they've left the nest they will not leave the path of right living.

Don't believe it? Think about the times you've said something and then thought, "I sound like my mother!" Or maybe you've told

stories to your daughter about what you learned from a beloved teacher or grandparent when you were her age.

Training our children at home, GEMS, and church about who God is and how He wants us to live is critical. It starts them on the path (or train tracks!) of right living, a path that we pray they won't steer from as they age.

Would you like your daughter to consistently make wise choices? Then you'll be especially excited to hear about this season's GEMS theme, *Get Wisdom: Go beyond the Gold!* It's a theme topic based

on the book of Proverbs that encourages girls to fear God and to walk wisely on the highway of right living. They'll learn how to make wise choices about words, relationships, integrity, work, money, and more. They'll also be taught the importance of saying no to bad choices that almost always come with painful consequences.

Will you join her in getting wisdom? Ask her what she's learning at club, read the monthly Parent Newsletters, and do the family activities together. Be her greatest role model and encourager so her feet will never stray from God's path of right living.

Heart to Heart

Have each family member tell about his or her day. Have a heart to heart with the members of your family, discussing these questions that relate to what your daughter has been studying at GEMS:

1. What do you need wisdom about most right now?
2. Who do you go to first when you need wisdom about work/school? About major decisions? About spiritual matters?
3. Tell about a time when you made a bad choice that came with a painful consequence. If you could redo it, what choice would you make in that situation today?

Family Fun

Our Amazing World: Have each family member discover an amazing fact about nature in the state or province you call home. It may be something about your lakes or oceans, birds or animals, elevation, temperature, or beautiful sights. Share your fact at a meal. Go and see the place together if possible!

Proverbs Point: In the book of Proverbs we learn that *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding* (Proverbs 9:10). Fearing God means that we recognize how great and awesome He is. The world God made points us to His unfathomable bigness, might, and power!

A Scavenger Hunt: Create a Scavenger Hunt list that can be done in a park or outdoor area (finding nature items), small items hidden in your home (tell your children the boundaries!), or in a mall or grocery store (take pictures of the items). Create a special reward for the winner.

Proverbs Point: Searching for wisdom is similar to a Scavenger Hunt. It demands energy, a diligent search, and hard work. Challenge your entire family to work hard this year to search for and get wisdom!

The Road Less Traveled: Take a hike with your family and look for forks in the path. Flip a coin or vote on what path to take. At one of the

forks or at the end of your hike read Robert Frost's short and memorable poem, "The Road Not Taken." It begins with "Two roads diverged in a yellowed wood" and concludes with the familiar words, "I took the road less-traveled by . . . and that has made all the difference." Talk about plans and paths your children want to take as they grow.

Proverbs Point: Life is filled with choices. When you read and live by the book of Proverbs your family can use God's wisdom to make choices that result in good decisions that will protect you from sin and its consequences.



God's Word

Your daughter is learning about the theme, *Get Wisdom: Go beyond the Gold!* These are some of the Bible verses she has been studying:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (Proverbs 9:10).

How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver (Proverbs 16:16)!

The highway of the upright avoids evil; he (she) who guards his (her) way guards his (her) life (Proverbs 16:17).

