

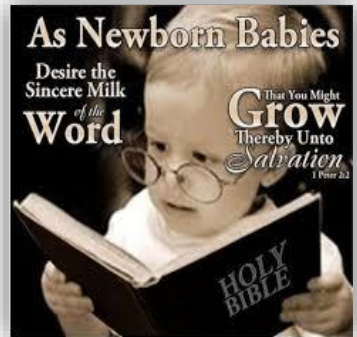


Greetings,

Parents, what do we do in desperate times like this?

With a push of a button, many precautionary measures have been put in place in schools, offices, community areas, shopping malls, hospitals, religious buildings, even at home! Parents are filled with uncertainty and fearful of their children being infected, especially when children are either too young to understand what is personal hygiene or not able to see the seriousness of the current COVID-19 situation. We might see parents ‘drowning’ their children with education about personal hygiene and how to protect themselves day and night (some called that nagging); some parents may possibly also ‘ban’ their children from going out or even schools (maybe not in Singapore). We might see parents stocking up food, medication, diapers, thermometers, hand sanitizers, etc for their children. Parents being parents, will go the extra mile to ensure the safety of their children:- physically.

What about the spirituality of our children in JCC?



With the temporal stand down of JCC's Sunday School, do we, parents, make time to put into place spiritual measures and go the extra mile to 'educate' our children in desperate times like this? Are there teachable moments of where is God and how our children can play their spiritual role during these times of crisis, eg. Being a prayer warrior? Is it an excuse that perhaps our children's spiritual growth is our secondary focus during such a crisis?



Your children may have questions about COVID-19, and about sickness and disease in general. As we talk to them, it might be a good opportunity for us to share how these things relate to our Christian faith. What does the Bible tell us, and what biblical wisdom can we share with our children to point them back to Jesus in such troubled

times?

I recently read an interesting article and have pulled out some pointers to share with all parents:

(cited from <https://biblical-parenting.org/articles/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-disease/>)

### Our Comfort And Confidence Is In God

There is no need to fear any virus because we know that God is more than able to walk His people through sickness, disease and even death. In short, God is our comfort and confidence as we face troubled times.

**We know and can trust in Him 100%: God is with us. And, He cares.**

### Death Came From Sin

The current focus on COVID-19 might be an opportune time to engage our children about the origin of death and what the Bible says about disease and sickness, even to good people like Job. The most important point to emphasise to our children is that even though death is God's judgement for sin, God is in control and He has a plan to save us. **Share with your kids to be other-people centred. In other words, to be loving to others.**

## God Is In Control And He Implemented A Plan To Save Us

As Christians, we of all people are able to confidently and joyfully share with our children the happy ending of this story: God is in control. He continued to love the fallen world and sinful man; and He showed this by sending His one and only son Jesus to become a man, take on our sin, and die for us on the cross. Through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, we have been freed from sin and death. What this means is: trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour doesn't just give us comfort and confidence to face troubled times, it also gives us the ultimate hope that even if we die physically, we will live eternally in heaven with God. **There is hope in God, no place for fear and panic.**

### Keep Calm and Hope on

Encourage your children to be calm and confident, even as they see others complain, despair, or panic. Keep reminding them to look at the Big Picture Plan that God has already put in place to save us. **Their hope in God is the basis for being calm and confident.**

Parents, in the temporal absence of our Sunday School Teachers during this period (not sure how long the current virus situation would take), and as a parent myself, I urge all of us to rise up to the Call to be Spiritual Teachers of the Word, and be the Shepherds that would give time to love and feed our sheep. Our own children are with us 24 hours day, 7 days a week, if our children are not growing spiritually from us (parents), they will pick up new teachings elsewhere, from social media, from peers, from the world. Parents, who have been consistently disciplined to ensure spiritual teachable moments with your children, give yourself a pat on



your shoulder! BRAVO to you and continue to press on!! Parents, who may be struggling and need additional spiritual materials or resources to teach your children spiritually in this long haul, and needed support, please do check-in with HOM of the Children Ministry.

## 7 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD GROW SPIRITUALLY

### 1. MODEL YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE TO THEM.

The reality of anything related to parenting is that you pass on what you do. If you want to pass anything on to your kids spiritually, you must model it for them. They will watch you for 18+ years.



They will see you read your Bible (or not), how often you pray and what your prayers contain (so much is taught in this), how often you attend church and how important spiritual things are to you.

### 3. READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.



Part of why kids dislike church is they don't understand the relevance of the Bible and the things that happen at church. It is something their parents do, apart from them. So do it with them.

I know this is difficult, and they don't always want to sit still, but doing something is better than nothing.

### 5. LISTEN TO THEIR QUESTIONS.



This might be one of the most overlooked aspects of your kids' spiritual life because it is out of your control as a parent and doesn't come on a schedule.

But your kids have questions, and when they ask them, engage them. Don't shoo them away or scold them for asking a question. If they are skeptical or have doubts, talk with them. You are telling them it is OK to ask questions, to wonder about something, to be unsure.

### 7. PRAY FOR THEM AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY



If you're a follower of Jesus you know this, but it is easy to overlook the power in it.

If you aren't praying for your kids, who do you think is?

Pray for them. Pray with them. Ask them what you can pray for, even if they say nothing, which will often happen as they get older.

### 2. INVOLVE THEM IN A CHURCH.

Just like the first one, they will often do what you do. So do what you'd like to see them do. Many times we might hear parents say, "I don't want to force spiritual things onto my kids."



The problem with this is that we don't apply this to anything else. We force our kids to do math, learn a language, eat broccoli, turn off their electronics and take a nap, often when they hate every moment of it.

### 4. READ BOOKS TO THEM.

One of the things you can do is read books to your kids and discuss the spiritual themes in them.



Whenever we watch a movie, we always talk about how it is like the one true story we see in Scripture. What are the themes and how do those themes influence us?

### 6. INTERACT WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT HOW TO PICK FRIENDS.

Don't sit on the sidelines when it comes to their friends. You have an enormous impact on their spiritual lives, but so do their friends.



Be involved in that.

Dear Parents, though I have attached some online resources below to aid you in biblical teachings for your child(ren), I would like to encourage and urge you to use the GFH materials (*Growing Faith at Home*) that our church has invested and purchased for our spiritual health and **it's downloadable** from our website.

Click here:

<http://jcc.lutheran.org.sg/family-devotion-materials/>

**Remember,**

**God's Ministry starts **FIRST** from the Home,  
Regardless of how young or old our children are.**



## **BIBLE ONLINE RESOURCES**

**FOR YOUR KIDS**

click on link to browse

<https://www.thispilgrimlife.com/bible-resources-for-kids/>

<https://open.life.church/categories/314-kids>

<https://biblestoryprintables.com/>

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/>

<https://kidsbibleinfo.com/bible-guides/>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lessons/>

<https://vibrantchristianliving.com/children-bible-study-method-printable/>

<https://scripturelady.com/free-sunday-school-resources-elementary-children/>

<https://www.sundayschoolsources.com/>

<https://childrensministry.com/free-sunday-school-lessons/>

Jonathan Tan