

# But Why?



Children have an innate curiosity and probably use the word *why* more times than they can even count. Even though hearing this question may be frustrating at times, knowing *why* often provides helpful motivation for learning and continued progress. It is especially beneficial when the *why* is based on Scripture or read directly from God's Word. The Bible is the most powerful and effective tool for teaching kids, but it is often underused.

**For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).**

There are times when “because I said so” truly is the best response in the moment. Maybe there is an urgency that doesn't allow for explanation, or a subject too mature for comprehension. However, there are many times when providing a biblical *why* has strong potential to boost a child's understanding of God or inspire choices consistent with a biblical worldview. Using Scripture to explain reasoning for a choice or action helps strengthen the point being made and shows that God's authority is the basis for the instruction.

For example, when teaching your child to be kind to others, reference Ephesians 4:32. “The way you just spoke to your sister was rude and did not sound kind. God reminds us in the Bible to be kind and loving to others. (Read Ephesians 4:32.) When we choose to follow God it involves obeying His Word. I sometimes have a hard time being kind too. Let's pray now and ask God to help us both remember His teaching from this verse.”

## **Additional Scripture suggestions:**

**Colossians 3:23**—emphasizes the importance of doing your best even if you don't like the task

**Matthew 22:37-39**—reminds us to treat others the way we want to be treated

**Matthew 6:33**—encourages putting God first

**Galatians 5:22**—highlights evidences of God's Spirit at work in us

**Proverbs 3:5-6**—instructs us to trust God's ways more than our own ideas

**Matthew 5:16**—admonishes us to share the truth of God with others





There are many other Scriptures to use as you teach and train your kids. Just be careful not to use a Bible verse as a “zinger” to highlight an inappropriate choice. This can create a sense of shame that doesn’t prove effective for long-term teaching and understanding of the Scriptures. Create an environment that allows the Word to speak to a child’s heart, and help him or her understand that even adults need to be reminded of biblical truth or corrected sometimes.

**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

