

Home Training Takes Commitment, Time, and Effort

My good friends Matt and Lisa Bullen have five incredible kids. Their children are by no means perfect, but they are among the most respectful, thoughtful, resourceful, and well-behaved children I have ever met. In fact, the Bullens are legends of sorts around our church. New members are always commenting on the behavior and disposition of the Bullen kids.

The Bullens attended a Bible study Bridget and I hosted in our home. It was an eight-week study on marriage attended by eight families ranging from newlyweds to a couple who had been married more than thirty years. During one of our discussion times, the subject turned to training godly children. Matt Bullen leaned in and said, “You know what I’m tired of? I’m tired of people looking at our five children and saying, ‘You guys are so lucky you got five good children.’” Matt’s point was simple. Raising godly children is not a matter of luck; it is a matter of work.

All children are shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5). Proverbs 22:15 says, “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.” This is not true only of those children whose parents weren’t “lucky” enough to get good ones. This is true of all children. Thus it is not lucky parents but the diligent ones who will end up with a child who brings them praise instead of shame.

But what is it about the Bullen family that separates them from others? The answer to this question is simple. They put in the time. The children were taught first-time obedience from the time they could crawl. They have been taught what the Bible says about wisdom versus foolishness since before they could fully understand it. They have had a family altar since before they were born, and they live under the constant watchful eye of two parents who are completely devoted to the idea of partnering with God to produce godliness in their children.

There is no magic bullet when it comes to raising godly children. There is, however, a detailed road map. The Bible gives us everything we need in order to get the job done right. Make a commitment right now to teach the Bible in your home. Pray that the Lord will give you the courage, conviction, and endurance to see it through. Start with one day a week if that is all you can carve out. If necessary, make it a point to read the Bible during your evening meal each day. You may also want to consider a time of Bible reading at bedtime as you put the kids down. Whatever you do, read the Bible in your home.

Excerpt from *Family Driven Faith* by Voddie Baucham, pages 104-105