

As I have been writing this series on spiritual training, people have shared with me their concerns. The most frequent concern that I hear is that the Sunday school teachers are much better equipped to do the training. Many parents feel inadequate in their Biblical knowledge and their teaching skills.

Let me address those two issues and then share my thoughts on the role of Sunday school. First, Biblical knowledge is something that can be increased by spending time prayerfully reading God's Word. The wonderful thing about God's Word is that one never reaches a point of knowing it all. The Bible is fresh each time we read it. Second, do not be concerned about your teaching skills. You are already using them to teach everything else that you must teach your child. You are your child's most important teacher in all life skills.

Sunday school is a wonderful place for children to learn about God. It has a few advantages that cannot be met in the home.

First, the children are learning with peers. When they see these children at school, they know they have friends who share the same values they have learned at home. They are learning about Christian fellowship.

Second, they are learning about God's House. In church, they learn about corporate worship, respect for the place of worship and respect for the Sabbath.

Finally, they are having their parents' lessons reinforced by another person. Children reach an age when their world expands beyond family. Peers and other adults assume importance in their lives. If the only people who have talked to them about faith are their parents, they will be more likely to question what they have learned.

Sunday school is important, but it is only one hour each week. It should be an addition to the teaching that goes on in your home as you "...talk about them (the commandments) when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:7. Nothing can replace your daily instruction of your children.