

Eight things I'd like to teach my kids about God

Excerpts from an article by Kathy Coffey, U.S. Catholic

1. **GOD IS LOVE.** It is our hope as parents to be able to communicate God's love in ways more powerful than words. Our love is a mere reflection of God's love for us. Life is richer and more grace-filled for those who imagine God as a friend.
2. **GOD'S LOVE NEVER ENDS.** We sometimes catch a glimpse of the awesome mystery of God. We see God in nature. And yet when we think we have truly glimpsed God, we ain't seen nothing yet. Say to your children: *God is full of surprises!*
3. **GOD IS GOOD.** Teach your children not only to believe that God is good, but also to seek God's goodness in each day. Little children have an amazing ability to find joy in every day, smell the flowers with them and see God unfolding for them and you. It will help you live in gratitude to God, each and every day...for all we have been given.
4. **GOD CHOSE YOU AND SHAPED YOU IN GOD'S IMAGE.** We often talk about whom a child resembles, but we must never forget that each of us is formed in the image of God. Jesus is our brother. God created all children for a special task that only he or she can accomplish. Each is precious.
5. **GOD IS WITHIN YOU.** Look for God inside yourself and those burdens of daily life will be lessened. Sometimes life distracts us. But when I center myself, I remember that no matter what happens, God is loving me more than I love myself, wanting only good for me. Taking quiet time for prayer will help accomplish this and will set an example for our children.
6. **GOD IS WITHIN OTHERS.** This is a hard lesson to learn, but if God is within us, God is also within others. Therefore, we must learn to treat others as God incarnate and to help our children to do so also.
7. **GOD IS GREATER THAN ANY HURT, FORGIVES ANY WRONG.** Our errors in life can help our children see that God can forgive even the worst wrongs. Children need to learn how good people express anger, resolve conflicts, ask for the grace to forgive, and work to reconcile. In these efforts they will catch a hint of God's forgiveness.
8. **MY CHILDREN HAVE TAUGHT ME MORE ABOUT GOD THAN I COULD EVER TEACH THEM.** With my children I feel more vulnerable than with any adult I have ever loved. Perhaps experiencing the love of a parent for a child comes as close as humans can to knowing how intensely God loves us.