

How Children Relate to Father and Mother

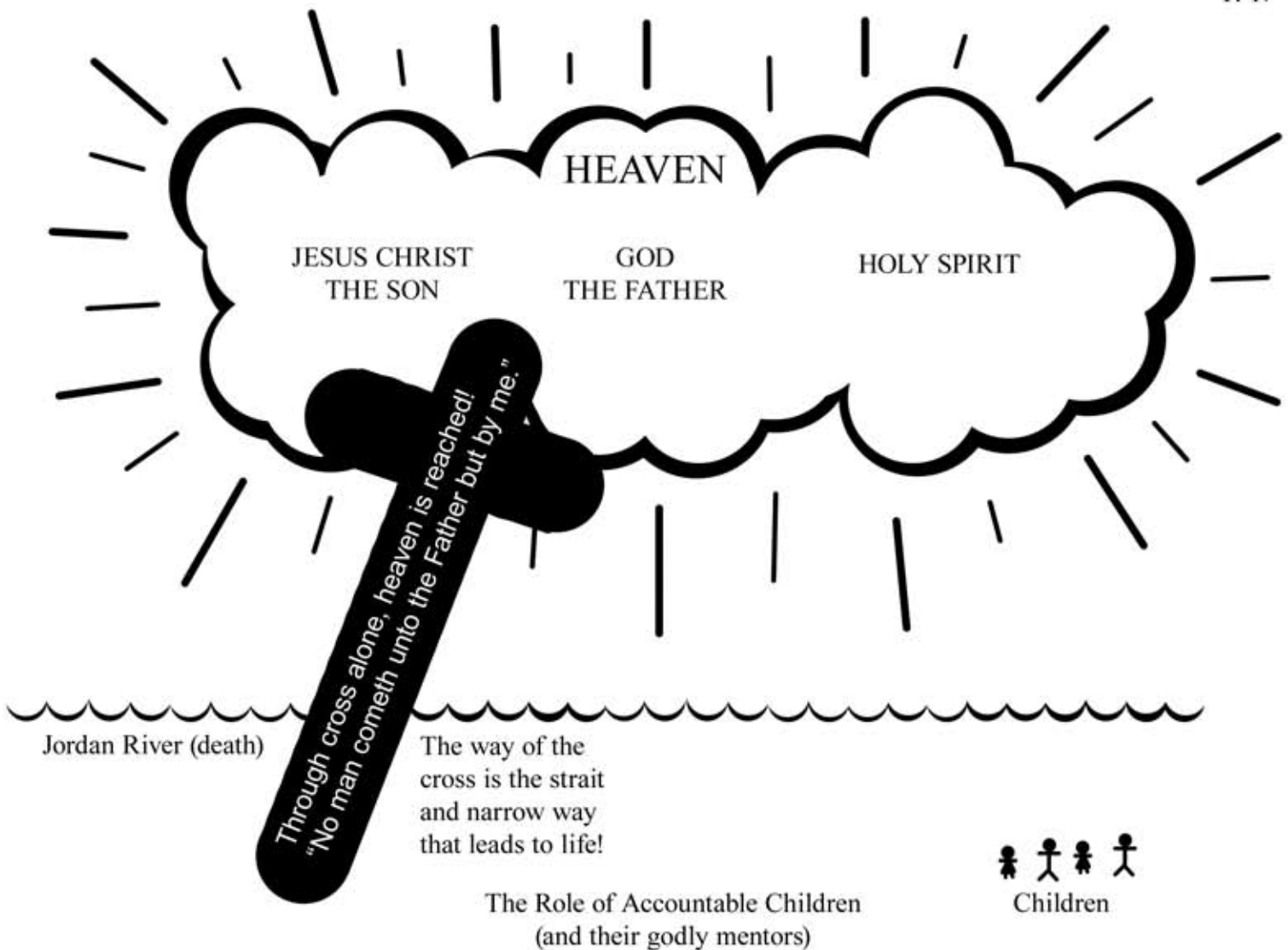
Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Father is head of home, therefore, to the innocent child, father is a type of final authority. Just as children begin on milk but move on to meat as they mature, so grows a child's concept of God. As the child matures, the child realizes that just as their earthly father's word was to be honored, the heavenly Father's Word is to be honored. The heavenly Father is the FINAL Authority! The heavenly Father will one day judge with absolute and final judgement. This is when the child enters what we call, "The age of accountability."

This period brings conviction to the heart. There is a growing awareness of being a sinner and with not being able to be good in ones own strength.

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

The godly father will endeavor to discern this time and be there to point the child to Christ, the ONLY way to peace--a deep soul rest. This is the kind of peace that Christians have because of a right relationship with God and the promise of eternal life. Christians experience this peace even in the midst of persecution and other times of hardship.



How Accountable Children Should Relate to God and Parents

The child is at the time of decision. As godly parents, we want our children to make a decision to follow Christ. We can pray for them, guide them, point them, encourage them, BUT, the decision is theirs. We cannot “legislate” them into the Kingdom. They cannot follow a set of “rules” and thereby get to heaven.

How to shepherd a child to the cross, - role of a godly parent or minister.

For children that say, “I want to be Christian,” sometimes it may be necessary to determine if the child is still in innocence, or if they have reached accountability. To determine this, ask, “What is bothering you?” If an innocent, sensitive, child is feeling guilty, they will mention a specific wrong act. “Mother said to not eat any cookies before supper but I took one anyway.”

This child is not ready to be a Christian. Simply telling Mother they are sorry will restore peace to the child.

If you ask what is bothering the child and they say they feel lost, this child is realizing they have a sin nature. This child is ready to be lead into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. Encourage the child to mention specifically, the sins they have committed that are currently in their minds. 1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. - **This is a promise, not a maybe!**



2. Encourage the child to pray and tell the heavenly Father just what they have told you. Not only mention the specific sins that are bothering them, but also acknowledge the nature to sin and ask God to forgive that nature, and to make you one of His children, through the blood of Jesus Christ. Ask to be filled with His Holy Spirit and peace.

(Pray in the name of Jesus because He is our ONLY Mediator with God.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Joh 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full)

3. Encourage the child to read the Scriptures daily. He is now grafted into the Vine. To stay alive Spiritually requires regular nourishment from the Word. 1 John is a good book to point the child to. There are Scriptures there that help the child to KNOW they are now saved and in God's Kingdom. This brings peace and comfort to the soul that has been searching for peace.

4. Encourage the child to make restitution if that is needed, to make other wrongs right with those that have been wronged.

5. Encourage the child to tell others about their new walk with God. This will strengthen faith.