

WHAT I TEACH MY CHILDREN 2: TO BE LOVING AND KIND

If God wants the world to know that He is loving and kind, then we need to teach our children to be loving and kind as well. We did this to our children by first being an example to them. And then, we also created opportunities for them to exercise these traits.

When our children were small, we made them serve our guests, give their seats to the elderly, and asked them to be nice even when people were not. In the beginning, they resented this because they would see other parents do the opposite to their children. I believe for a while they felt we were unfair.

When Denise was in Kinder, her school had a project to bless the underprivileged. The teachers asked the children to bring the best gift they could give. While most parents bought nice gifts, Peachy asked Denise to give away her favorite toy. Can you imagine her shock? We can't remember if she cried over it but we were sure she felt very bad. Peachy would always explain to our children that being kind is a very important trait they need to learn, so if they should give gifts, they should give the best for them.

Today, it is easy for my children to be a blessing even to those who are not nice to them. They also automatically serve our guests and help the elderly because they discovered that being kind invites a lot of blessings. When they are kind, people somehow become kind to them, even those who are rude. I heard Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of Dallas Maverick, once said, "Being nice, works!" He said, in life, we should be nice to everyone we meet because when we are nice to them, they will be nice to us in return.

I believe it is important for our children to learn to be loving and kind so that people will treat them in the same way. Unfortunately, many parents teach their children to put themselves first, to their detriment. But there is a more important reason why our children should act in love and kindness; it is so that the world may know that their God is loving and kind. When our children are loving and kind, they do not have to open the Bible to share the gospel. They can share God's love and disciple others, not by their words but simply BY THEIR ACTIONS.