



# **The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life**

*Scott Turansky , Joanne Miller*

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### **With advice on**

**parenting coming from several angles, what do you listen to and what do you ignore? Develop your own biblical philosophy of parenting and use it to filter the many ideas that come your way.**

In this book you'll learn how to:

Identify character qualities to address problems

Build internal motivation

Transfer responsibility for change to the child

Teach kids to be solvers instead of whiners

Use creativity to teach your kids spiritual truths

Avoid the “boxing ring”

Envision a positive future

And much more!

With these strategies you'll be able to move from behavior modification to a heart-based approach to parenting. Instead of relying on rewards, incentives, threats, and punishment, you'll learn how to identify heart lessons to teach your child *and* implement them in practical ways.

### *The Christian*

*Parenting Handbook* by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting, compiles fifty parenting principles that use heart-based strategies to teach you how to face daily challenges. When parents focus on the heart, kids learn to ask different questions about life. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" they learn to ask, "What's the *right* thing to do?" You'll soon see how a heart-based approach to parenting looks deeper and brings about greater, lasting change.

The daily interaction you have with your children can impact them for the rest of their lives. With these fifty heart-based strategies, you'll develop your own biblical philosophy of parenting and gain perspective, greater motivation, and confidence that you're moving in the right direction. As you envision a positive future for your children, they'll experience hope and direction and you will too. Start applying these principles today!

## **The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life Details**

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Author : Scott Turansky , Joanne Miller

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# **From Reader Review The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life for online ebook**

## **Randi says**

### **So grateful for this book**

I love all Turansky / Miller books ! This one is so encouraging and beneficial because it still has such a heart based focus but is so practical as well. I read one chapter a day . There's so much wisdom packed into every small chapter. On my daily goal list I have down "read 1 parenting chapter a day" - this is one of the books in the repeat rotation for sure !!!! So grateful for Gods work in and through them.

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## **Andrew says**

In The Christian Parenting Handbook, Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller has written an excellence resource to guide parents in the different stages of their children lives. The book focused on teaching and applying fifty heart principles that are Biblical based. Some of the chapters are: Consistency is Overrated, Build Internal Motivation, Consequences Aren't the Only Answer, Envision a Positive Future, Teamwork....Individual at Their Best, It Takes Two to Argue, but Only One to Stop, Discipline Kid Separately for Siblings Conflict, To Spank or Not to Spank, The Value of Grandparents, and much more.

Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller pointed out that when if we only use internal motivation to much. It only makes our children do what their supposed to in order to obtain a reward. For example, "If you get your homework done, you can do out and play." "If you clean your room, you can watch a video." (Page 5). This approach teaches children to ask themselves, "What do I gain by doing what is required of me?" As parents, we have to remember that we have to think long term and lead our children until mature caring adults. They also specified that, "rewards shouldn't be abandoned, but should instead be used to encourage the heart. Use them sparingly, because rewards often lose their effectiveness over time, requiring that you increase the reward to get the same result." (Page 8). We have to teach our children that doing what is right and required is worth it.

Another wonderful life changing parenting tact included in the book was not always punishing your child by throwing out a consequence for a wrong behavior. When a child acts out, it's imperative to let the child re-practice doing the right thing where they are learn the correct way. This teaches children how they are expected to behave and how they are required to speak to their parents and others. I personally believe this one would greatly impact families and children if parents would be intentional about having children re-practice and learn from their negative responses and actions.

When the opportunity to review and promote The Christian Parenting Handbook, I gladly wanted to be a member of the Launch Team. I will admit that the principles presented in this book I haven't experienced firsthand. I'm 23 years old and I'm not married or a parent yet (hopefully, I will be both one day). This means that I'm not in the main target audience of this book. I ultimately read this book where I could learn from other parents who have been where I one day will be. I firmly believe that learning from other parent's victories and struggles immensely helps other parents to become better fathers and mothers. I know reading a

book is only the first step and the real challenge comes in the everyday life of raising children. This book taught me a lot of information and parenting strategies that I didn't know. And I'm positive the authors have written something that will benefit you in your parenting, as well.

One of the chapters that influenced me was, "Identify Character Qualities to Address Problems". The authors suggested that parents write down the bad behaviors they see their child committing and what occurred. Afterwards, parents need to write down the character qualities that their children are missing or not displaying. Then, it's vital to focus on the positive qualities, you are wanting to see in your child. Ex: "compassion, determination, obedience, honor, attentiveness, patience, gracefulness, and self-discipline" (Page 15-16). The author also stated that parents need to affirm and express thankfulness when their child demonstrated great character qualities. This point will guide parents in making sure they are bringing up a child in the way and desires of the Lord.

Another chapter that I loved was, "Teach Kids to be Solvers Instead of Whiners". This one talked about the dreadful whines and complains from our kids. I know adults who still haven't learnt this lesson. I know when I have kids this is something most parents at some point might have to deal with. The authors described that it's imperative to impart in our kids that if they want a drink, or a snack, or help finding something that they must not demand it in a whiny voice. One method would be by using the word please followed by their request. Eventually, you want to teach children to be less depend on you and more capable of being responsible. By teaching children to be proactive in finding a solution to their current predicament, this helps children to learn that complaining won't benefit them in getting their way.

I would recommend this magnificent life changing Christian parenting handbook to any expecting parents, parents, people hoping to one day be parents, and even grandparents. By reading this book, it revealed me a lot of areas that I have very little clue on how to be an effective parent. While I was reading the book, I even wrote down critical notes and points to remind myself on how to be a better father to my future children. I also plan on rereading this book with my future wife whenever we're expecting our first child. And I'm sure we will be rereading it again at times when we're unsure of what to do in our parenting. This isn't a book to be read just one time. The reader should read it multiple times to gain the knowledge and to enact the suggestions discussed. This book has the impact and potential to change homes and your children's hearts. If you're looking for a brilliant book on parenting, then this one is the one you need to get and apply to your life!

"I received an advance PDF file of this book for free from the authors, Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller for this review".

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### **Steve Johnson says**

Parenting is not a formula. Too many authors try to make it seem like it is, and too often parents are looking for the formula. In *The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life*, Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller realize that it isn't a formula, but they have succeeded at developing clear principles, organized in a manner that any parent can quickly find the help that they need. I would recommend that parents read this book together. The short chapter format makes it a good tool to read together and discuss how you can apply the ideas in your family.

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### **Becky Danielson says**

The Christian Parenting Handbook: 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life is a fabulous resource for parents who desire to raise children with a heart for God. Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller tackle parenting children today with experience and love. Parents will find this book a tool to use throughout the parenting journey. Whether there is a baby or a teenager in the house, this insightful, encouraging, and enjoyable guidebook is a necessity for every Christian parent!

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### **Rene says**

Excelente manual, me encanta el enfoque en la relación, no es una guía de que hacer y que no, es un libro con el que se puede reflexionar cómo manejar la relación entre padres e hijos con un enfoque bíblico adecuado. Muy recomendado

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### **Lisa says**

As always, Scott Turansky's writing is easy to read and his advice imminently practical, level-headed, and realistic. This book takes common issues that crop up in family life, like laziness and whining, and gives very thorough advice on how to approach the problem. I especially enjoy his frequent use of scripture to support his approach, but not in a heavy-handed legalistic way. If anything, I really enjoy how his approach truly comes from a desire to change motives instead of behavior. Much more meaningful. The only drawback is that this book needs to be treated more like a handbook than a cover-to-cover read, which is how I approached it. I think it would be most effective if I referenced the issue I want addressed, read about how to approach it, and then implement with the child.

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### **Jennifer Buczynski says**

This book was so amazing that I took two and a half years to read it hahaha. That's because each "chapter" (2-4 pages) was so meaty I felt like I couldn't speed through it. I'll have to read it again, taking notes this time to help me remember! I underlined and dog-eared these pages like crazy! I really hope to implement some of these in my parenting of 4 little ones. What an awesome and wise book. Highly recommend!

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### **Julia says**

This is honestly the very best parenting book I have ever read, full of both practical ideas and Biblical perspective for dealing with parenting challenges with children of all ages! Cannot recommend it highly enough!

I took my time reading this one in order to really soak up and apply the information contained within, and the format made that easy to do. Each chapter is short and easy to read through quickly - about 4-5 pages of wonderfully dense parenting advice. The chapters address a specific parenting challenge, follow up with

examples of the challenge at play in a family and suggestions for tackling the issue from a Christian perspective. Most chapters provide a perspective on why dealing well with the target issue matters in the overall Biblical scope of parenting -- how winning your child's heart for God starts with winning their heart for your family.

I have already gained and applied a lot of valuable advice! For example, one chapter deals with how to curb a child's whining. The authors talk about how whining is really a child focusing on their problem, and that good parenting teaches children to focus on solutions. So, rather than providing a snack the moment I hear "Mooooommmmy, I'm hunnnnnngry" I have been working to re-direct my 7-year-old ("That's a problem. How can you solve it?") toward a focus on a solution ("Mommy, may I have a snack?") It takes a few seconds more, but it is time well spent -- teaching her that she is able to solve some of her problems on her own.

This is a book I know I will refer to again and again as my daughter grows and we face new parenting challenges.

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### **Katelyn says**

I was excited to read this book because as a Christian mother I definitely want to make sure that how I parent is inline with how Christ would want me to parent (as opposed to how the world thinks it's best to parent).

Right from the beginning of this book, I felt like it was different from some of the other books I've read. The focus of this book is not on just correcting behavior, or just on managing a child's specific issue, or how to just motivate your child to do the right thing. The focus of this book is on the long-term growth of your child, specifically in regards to your child's heart and character. I loved that! Because that is indeed how I should think about raising my children. I shouldn't think about how to just fix problems, but how to help my child mature.

The problem with many parenting books is that they don't help you think long-term or big picture enough. Sure, you can use many popular parenting techniques to get your kids to do what you want, but if you aren't helping them internalize the change, the desires, the understanding within themselves as to why they should do good things, then you are missing the point, and so are they. The Christian Parenting Handbook teaches you how to not only manage your children's behavior, but how to help them change their hearts, which will in turn help them change into wonderful, mature adults over time. And isn't that what we all really want? It teaches parents how to help our children develop character, not just obedience.

Each chapter in the book deals with a specific parenting issue or explains the differences between things like punishment and discipline. There are 50 chapters, all of which are very short. They often include some stories and examples to help you understand what is being taught.

I liked that the book was fairly open-ended and non-judgmental. It gave you guidelines and tools and things to think about, but left it up to you to implement it as you would see fit in your own home. In fact, they even devoted a chapter to the controversial issue of spanking, and again, gave some suggestions on how to implement spanking if it is something you choose to do, but definitely not something that you have to do. I really appreciated the open-ended philosophy because parents always know their kids best and what will and won't work with them.

The book also talked heavily about relationship. It emphasized how we should take advantage of teaching



moments, including in moments when we are correcting our children. But, also that we should show grace, mercy, and love to our children, but not to the extent that we stop parenting (and start being BFFs). It also talked much about being creative with our disciplines, coming up with alternatives, and even at times letting our children pick their own consequences. I really liked the suggestion of having your children act out the "right way" of doing something that they just did wrong. I've had my girls do that, and it really helps!

Some things I didn't like about the book are more a matter of preference: I prefer a different translation of the Bible than they used (I prefer KJV) and wish it had more examples or worksheet questions to help you implement change in your self-parenting habits. I also think it could be helpful to divide the principles taught into age groups, or how to implement them with different ages.

Overall, this book is a great resource for parents and I recommend it, whether Christian or not! Everyone believes in developing good character qualities in our children and this book helps us as parents know how to do that!

\*Full review at <http://whatsupfagans.blogspot.com/201...>

\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

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## **Steve Bourque says**

When Joanne and Scott say in the introduction, "You're holding a book of ideas," they aren't kidding! If you're looking for a treasure trove of parenting ideas that goes beyond clever quips and coy research to truly heart transformational truth, you're going to want to pick up this book. As the title says, it's a handbook. You'll want it close by for reference relevant to almost any situation or any question you'll face as a parent.

As a parent, you're also looking for more than a plethora of ideas, you're also looking for an overarching way of thinking that breathes vitality into your family life. Scott and Joanne provide the Biblical foundations that are essential for looking beyond the parenting pressures of day-to-day life and into eternally valuable insights that will sustain and energize your journey.

The authors don't sugar coat their principles or try to make parenting seem easy. They acknowledge the difficulties, but provide more than adequate inspiration to accompany many truths that will equip parents well. They often suggest things that may take a little more work on the surface, but will greatly improve the results and increase the satisfaction and sense of purpose along the way.

Oftentimes, we as parents feel we're constantly in the corrective mode and trying to "get kids to behave." This book offers a refreshing approach that focuses on building relationships, the joy of great character, building on strengths and a life of wisdom leading to success. I feel a sigh of relief coming on and see the sun of hope rising on the horizon!

This book is super-charged with practical and easy to find advice and, more importantly, it is infused with a Christ-focused way of thinking about the parenting journey. It is a proactive versus reactive approach that will empower you to be a great parent.

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## **Alisa says**

Overall, I felt this book was a little nugget of great ideas. Each little idea is just a few pages, which helped in reading it. If you just wanted to find one little nugget, you read a few pages. I was impressed at the all-reaching topics the author came up with. I found myself thinking, “yes, I need to try that!” with many of the suggestions.

One downfall was some of the concepts weren’t developed quite enough to really find some answers. For example, one idea was to use discipline over anger, but there wasn’t as many hands-on or concrete ideas as I would have liked to implement the concept.

I loved the idea that you need to change your child’s “heart” as you parent. Many of the problems your child gets tangled in, or you find as a parent, if you work on changing the inner core of your child, you will find more success. This is definitely a book I would go back over and read again, especially certain concepts. It lends itself to reading slowly so you can implement different ideas. The authors also specifically want you to read the book and take notes of what you can do in your own parenting strategies. Good read.

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## **Karie Hall says**

I have to say that I think the reason why I like the book is that it’s written in a conversational style versus a textbook or do-what-I-say way, it makes it relevant to me.

I appreciated the fact that the authors know that we are our children’s parents, not them, not our neighbors, but us – it’s ultimately going to be up to us to make the decisions (hopefully with a lot of guidance from the Lord and His Word) on how to parent these blessings.

Have I agreed with everything? No. The authors aren’t expecting every reader to agree with everything, but to take away something practical so that in the end we’ve raised children who love and serve the Lord because they’ve seen Jesus through us.

This book is super-charged with practical and easy to find advice and, more importantly, it is infused with a Christ-focused way of thinking about the parenting journey. It is a proactive versus reactive approach that will empower you to be a great parent.

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## **Marcy says**

The subtitle of the book is, 50 Heart-Based Strategies for All the Stages of Your Child's Life. It's the perfect descriptor as it is divided into 50 short, easy-to-read chapters, each covering a different strategy for raising godly kids. I want a Godly child for sure, and because we believe the Bible is our primary guide, this book is

just perfect to help us along. I think every Christian family will want it in their home library or on their Kindle.

The common theme in every chapter is the need for heart change in our children. While we can likely force temporary changes in behavior, it is the heart work that brings about real, permanent change.

I knew I would love this book with the first chapter -- Consistency Is Overrated. This chapter introduces the reader to this idea of focusing on the heart of children, rather than conditioned response. I have made the mistake often of jumping quickly to either warning a consequence is coming or administering increasingly severe consequences in the hopes that remembering the harshness of the punishment will deter Ben from continuing in a particular behavior. For years, I've been doing this consistently. For years, it has not worked. Ben has continued to make the same poor choices time and again. It's been very frustrating for us as parents. We have been at a loss for what to do next, feeling that we've tried everything! At some point, you run out of consequences. At least we have.

Now we know what to do differently.

Another chapter I found quite enlightening is titled, Transfer the Responsibility for Change to the Child.

In this chapter, the example is given of a "messy" child. Not that I can relate to that, mind you. Sigh. Anyway, a common way to discipline for a child who leaves messes everywhere he goes might be to take away his video gaming privileges. Again, no similarity to anything happening at my house. Ahem.

Instead, the better strategy is to transfer responsibility to the child by having him develop a plan for not making messes and then holding him accountable to his own plan. In this scenario, Mom and Dad become more like accountability partners than police officers, and the child exhibits growth and maturity as he learns strategic ways to improve his behavior. This doesn't mean that there isn't a place for discipline or consequences of not following his own prescribed plan. But it is more fruitful because the child begins to understand that the responsibility for his behavior lies with him. You're giving him tools for successful heart changes.

Isn't that brilliant? It's really just about self-government -- something we should all be striving for and that we discuss in our home frequently. Only now we understand better how to develop and encourage it. Personally, I'm looking forward to less exasperated responses on my part. Yes, that means yelling.

I could continue on sharing about other chapters that spoke to me -- Envision a Positive Future, Look for Heart Moments, Bookmark Good Days, How to Pray for Your Kids, Children Need to Learn How to Work Hard, and Firmness Doesn't Require Harshness, but I think I'll let you discover those on your own.

This book has the potential to change your family. We're just scratching the surface here in our house, but I have hope for some long-term issues with which we have struggled, for the first time in a long time.

I believe The Christian Parenting Handbook belongs in every Christian home, church library, and Christian school. There are principles here that can also be used by teachers, coaches, pastors, mentors and anyone else influencing children. Life-changing principles.

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## **Sarah Bailey says**

I have to say that this is definitely one of the best ‘parenting handbooks’ that I’ve read in a long time – it’s not preachy but at the same time uses beloved Scripture to import practical and important Biblical truths about parenting. The Christian Parenting Handbook should be one of the books that you keep on your bookshelf, or like me, on your e-reading tablet – there was so much truth to be found and convicted me on several aspects of my parenting. I will admit, I am still reading this book – there are so many truths and ideas to try to implement that it’s not a book you read in one sitting and forget – there is much to ruminate over and actually put to use.

I’m a mom who often resorts to yelling – I hate that – and this book has given me some things to think on about how to approach my children differently so I don’t have to yell, or at least, as much. The one chapter that got me thinking “uh-oh” was the one titled “To Spank or Not to Spank” because it’s a hot topic and I appreciated the authors not taking a stance one way or the other, except to say you shouldn’t spank out of anger – how many of us are guilty of that? The authors recognize that different children will need different ways of punishment, taking privileges away from one may not work for the other – and so they leave it up to us, the parents to decide how we need to approach our children.

I have to say that I think the reason why I like the book is that it’s written in a conversational style versus a textbook or do-what-I-say way, it makes it relevant to me. Also, I appreciated the fact that the authors know that we are our children’s parents, not them, not our neighbors, but us – it’s ultimately going to be up to us to make the decisions (hopefully with a lot of guidance from the Lord and His Word) on how to parent these blessings. Have I agreed with everything? No. The authors aren’t expecting every reader to agree with everything, but to take away something practical so that in the end we’ve raised children who love and serve the Lord because they’ve seen Jesus through us.

**\*\*I was provided a copy of this PDF e-book from the authors in exchange for my honest opinion.**

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## **Jalynn Patterson says**

About the Book:

With advice on parenting coming from several angles, what do you listen to and what do you ignore?  
Develop your own biblical philosophy of parenting and use it to filter the many ideas that come your way.

In this book you'll learn how to:

Identify character qualities to address problems

Build internal motivation

Transfer responsibility for change to the child

Teach kids to be solvers instead of whiners

Use creativity to teach your kids spiritual truths

Avoid the "boxing ring"

Envision a positive future

And much more!

With these strategies you'll be able to move from behavior modification to a heart-based approach to parenting. Instead of relying on rewards, incentives, threats, and punishment, you'll learn how to identify heart lessons to teach your child "and" implement them in practical ways.

"The Christian Parenting Handbook" by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, founders of the National Center for Biblical Parenting, compiles fifty parenting principles that use heart-based strategies to teach you how to face daily challenges. When parents focus on the heart, kids learn to ask different questions about life. Instead of asking, "What's in it for me?" they learn to ask, "What's the "right" thing to do?" You'll soon see how a heart-based approach to parenting looks deeper and brings about greater, lasting change.

The daily interaction you have with your children can impact them for the rest of their lives. With these fifty heart-based strategies, you'll develop your own biblical philosophy of parenting and gain perspective, greater motivation, and confidence that you're moving in the right direction. As you envision a positive future for your children, they'll experience hope and direction and you will too. Start applying these principles today!

My Review:

Whoever said raising children was easy? Or how about "raising children doesn't come with a handbook"? Well now it does! Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller both professionals in the field of medicine and Christian parenting. In the book's introduction the authors state you are holding a book of ideas and that is just what you will get. Here are some basic guidelines taken from the book:

Begin with prayer

Build on a Biblical foundation

Think long term

Remember what's most important

Watch for variations on a theme

Focus on the heart

This is not a preach at you, in your face type of parenting self help book. This book was not designed to do that. It was designed to help gently guide you through many of the problems and circumstances that parents face every day. There are fifty chapters each one addressing a different issue.

I think there are more and more people turning to God in this day and age probably because of so many of the threats that face us and our nation. It is a very scary time. We want to make the right decisions and guide our children the best way we can. And the only way is based on a Biblical foundation.

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** I received this book at no charge for my honest review from the Booksneeze Blogger

Program.

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