

# CHURCH CONNECTION

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## WORLDVIEW & MAKING DISCIPLES

Researcher George Barna is speaking quite bluntly about the importance of intentionally building a biblical worldview in the next generation. In his latest book, *Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind, and Soul*, Barna attributes our societal problems to a transition from a biblical worldview to alternative philosophies.

Barna makes some stark distinctions between calling oneself a Christian and truly being a Jesus-follower, someone as Barna says, "lives like Jesus because they think like Jesus." Thinking like Jesus means developing a biblical worldview—seeing what's happening around us through the lens of God's Word.

Barna contends that parents err in prioritizing "academic achievement, emotional happiness, and good health" over "worldview development" and wanting their children to be a "good person" as opposed to being a disciple of Christ. Currently, Barna says "less than 1 percent of adolescents and teens are on track to have a biblical worldview." Parents can play a huge role in changing this.

It's not wrong to want children to do well in school or to be emotionally and physically healthy or to be a good person. But children should first and foremost be disciples who see the world as Jesus does. Children will struggle in every area without a biblical worldview to ground and prepare them for discerning true from false, good from evil, and right from wrong. This calls for intentional, purposeful parenting.

Developing a biblical worldview in children is not something parents can simply relegate to others. Ministry leaders, Christian school teachers, etc., can certainly support and

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### Prayer & Praise

Pray for the gospel outreach of WFC's Church Ambassador Network, that this will be a fruitful year of ministry for pastors who visit legislators with us. Last year, we had 265 ministry contacts of pastors with legislators.

Praise the Lord that Gov. Evers signed the "baby box" bill making it possible for a mom to surrender a new born to authorized agencies anonymously. This will help preserve the lives of newborns.

Choose Life Wisconsin gave grants totaling over \$60,000 to over 20 WI Pregnancy Care Centers last year. Total to date given in grants is over \$300,000.

STRENGTHENING,  
PRESERVING & PROMOTING  
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

*"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" —Col. 2:8*



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help, but parents are the real difference-makers. Parents must teach a biblical worldview which is then reinforced by others. Parents also need to guard against those who would influence their children away from a biblical worldview (see Col. 2:8). Safeguards relative to the influence of digital media are especially important.

Intentionally instilling a biblical worldview in children begins with parents who are themselves committed disciples of Jesus Christ. They study God's Word and seek prayerfully to live faithfully in accordance with it. It may be an old adage, but we need to practice what we preach. Regularly reading and studying the Bible together as a family is essential. This practice says to children that dad and mom highly value Scripture by giving it a place of preeminence in the family schedule.

Planned family discussions at dinner are also helpful. Be sure the authority and sufficiency of Scripture are promoted, whatever the topic may be (See II Pet. 1:3). Discussing what the Bible says about money or marriage, or any number of topics can result in insightful and meaningful conversation. Be sure to conclude with definitive biblical answers. Your pastor can no doubt recommend helpful resources for these discussions.

Whenever a child has a question about something in the news or encounters a situation where he or she is concerned about what is right or about how to deal with an issue is a perfect time for worldview instruction and training. Turning to the Word of God first and recognizing it as the ultimate authority will speak volumes to the child seeking answers and direction, both now and in the future.

Intentional parenting is demanding but essential if we are serious about raising a generation that truly follows Jesus. A generation grounded in a biblical worldview will provide leadership that will change families, churches, communities, states, and nations now and for eternity.

## WORLDVIEW MATTERS

Worldview matters so much that Wisconsin Family Council invests significant resources to host a camp for teens that has a primary goal of helping teens develop a biblical worldview. That is why the mission of LEAD WI is "equipping teens to become effective godly leaders who engage the culture from a biblical perspective." To learn more about LEAD Wisconsin camp, visit [www.LEADWI.org](http://www.LEADWI.org). Regarding this entire issue, your pastor may have some favorite books he recommends on developing a biblical worldview. Some that we find helpful are *The Universe Next Door* by James Sire; *Worldviews in Conflict* by Ronald Nash; and *Understanding the Times* by Jeff Myers and David Noebel.

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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