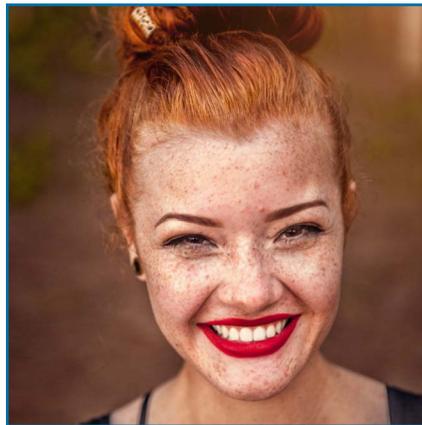
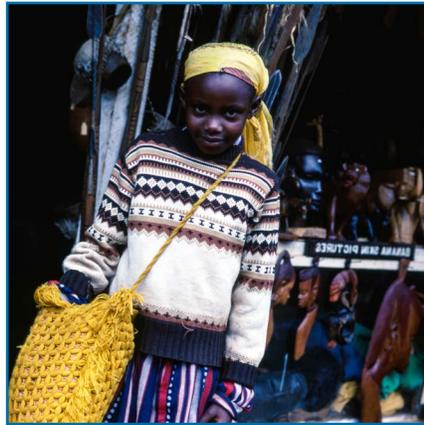


# WHY CHILDHOOD SPIRITUALITY MATTERS:

Top Five Benefits for Kids who are Given Opportunities to Connect with God

by Janet Logan



 **CHILD-CENTERED  
SPIRITUALITY**  
Through a Child's Eyes

## Does it really make any difference whether we raise kids with a sense of spirituality or not?

Child-Centered Spirituality talked with some parents whose children are now grown and here's why they said it matters:

### 1. They're learning a framework of hope in the midst of challenges.

God desires to be with us. Life is full of hope and doesn't call for a fatalistic outlook. There are certainly difficulties and tragedies in this world and honest faith in God doesn't gloss over those. Children learn the way the world works—the good and painful—and learn to experience God's presence in both. Some things remain shrouded in the beauty and mystery that is God.



**BENEFIT:** A child connected to God can think more about abstract ideas and concepts, and then create a coherent framework for living-- a life philosophy.



### 2. They have a moral authority who determines right and wrong; there is truth and there are lies.

God is a reference point who prevents us from being pulled back and forth by the changing tides of whoever has the most power. A higher standard of ethic stands forever above human beings and authorities and politics, providing an internal moral compass.

**BENEFIT:** Being able to stand firm for what is right even in the face of opposing voices gives our children the strength to be at the center of history with the choices they make.



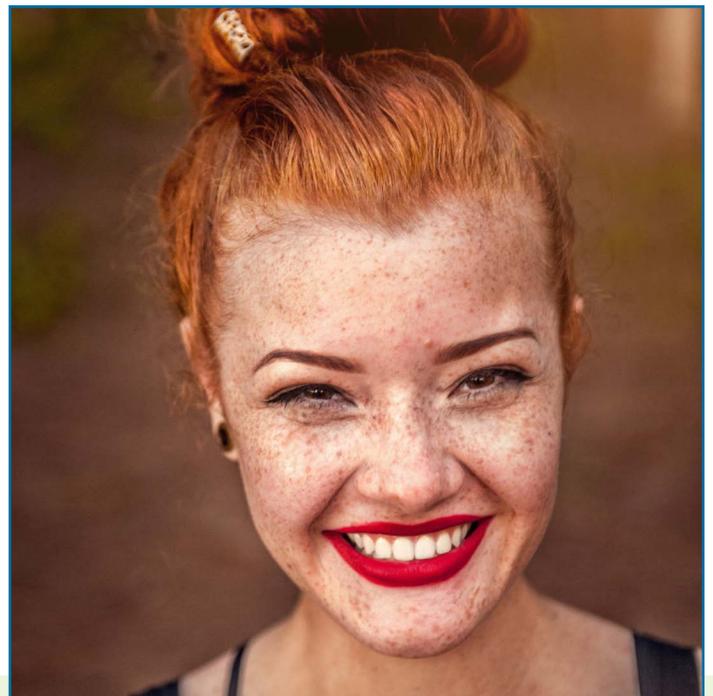
### 3. Their identity and personal worth are rooted in how much they are valued by God.

Children naturally look about them to determine whether they are valued and why. If their internal value is rooted firmly in the love of God, they are less swayed by the temptations of money, popularity, gossip, or power. They are also more likely to be inclusive of others because they recognize that others are also created and valued equally by God.

**BENEFIT:** A child connected to God can access God's bond with them, even when messages about them from friends, family, the culture or the larger world are negative.

### 4. They have a purpose and calling.

Even if the child doesn't know what it is yet, they know they are made for something special. God gave them talents, aptitudes, feelings, intelligence, traits and a human spirit. Everything about them is perfectly matched so that they can fulfill their life purpose. This purpose can come to bring children a sense of direction and purpose as they grow.



**BENEFIT:** A child connected to God is confident that their life has meaning and purpose, bringing joy, satisfaction and determination as they move toward goals.

## 5. At their core, they can feel anchored and secure.

Children raised with a sense of spirituality are able to see beyond themselves. They know that they are a part of something bigger than themselves, and can appreciate mountains, streams, stars. They also understand the benefit of community. They learn that they can make mistakes and ask forgiveness for those mistakes. They learn God is gracious to them, and they can be gracious to others.



**BENEFIT:** A child connected to God can trust in someone greater than themselves whose perspective is infinite, who is always near when they call and available to them.

Visit <http://childcenteredspirituality.com> for more resources to help a child in your life connect with God.

## ABOUT JANET

Janet Logan's ambition for excellence in childhood spiritual development began in her own childhood. Innately driven to pursue a career as a schoolteacher, she received her Master's Degree in Education at the University of Southern California, taking classes at night while teaching second grade during the day. Decades of teaching children, both inside and outside the school district, has given her an ease in relating to them.

For her, spiritual awareness was also a childhood instinct. Her parents saw and honored what God had already placed within her and set about to learn how to meet her spiritual needs and desires. Many years later, Janet studied for and received a Certificate of Distinction as a Spiritual Director.

Janet gained knowledge and experience to speak out on issues of childhood spiritual development while working as a coach, a facilitator of kids' support groups and then as a supervisor and trainer of facilitators for those groups. Currently, she is a Life Skills instructor (Anger Management, Parenting, etc ) at various homeless shelters, halfway houses, transitional living facilities and drug/alcohol rehabilitation residences (since 1992).

Married for 40 years, Janet and her husband live in the California wine country town of Santa Rosa near three of their grandnieces and nephews, and have two "adopted" grandchildren.

