

Raising grateful kids

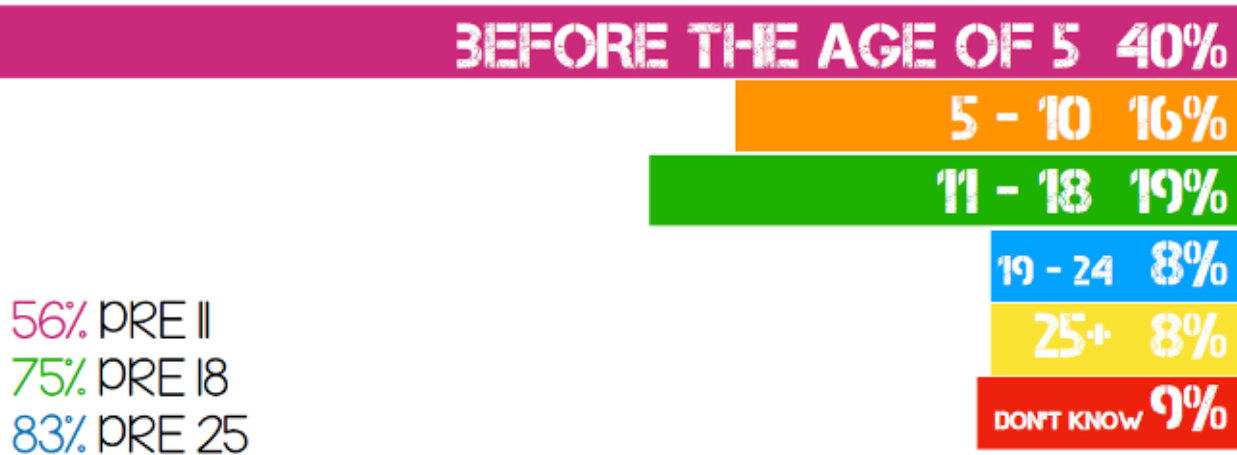
The big picture of parenting

Start strong! Proverbs 22: 6

It's not just about Sundays. Deuteronomy 6: 4-7

Christian parenting works. Ephesian 6: 1-4

At what age did practising Christians come to faith



Let's aim for their hearts

⁴³ 'No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.'⁴⁴ Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. *Luke 6: 43-45*

What would we do to increase gratitude if we only went after their behaviour?

The story of gratitude

We have the reason for gratitude. James 1: 17

Look to the flood not the leak

Gratitude is an attitude of heart not about facts and details

It is about God not us. Psalm 145: 3-7

Culture eats strategy for breakfast.

If you only thank God for what you see, then one day you won't thank God.

It will always start with our hearts

We can only parent out of what we already have

Speaking truth in the calm and the storm

We have the best role model for our parenting. 1 John 5:1

Avoiding ingratitude in *our* hearts

- Beware unrealistic expectations. *There are no self-parenting children.*
- Forgetting the Lord's goodness. *He supplies what is needed.*
- Entitlement. *Beware guilt & manipulation*
- Comparison. *Look up not across!*
- Blindness to God's grace. *His blessings are new every morning (Lamentations 5:25)*

Search for the good in the calm

Thank God for the great in the happiness

Apply the Gospel in the storm

- Take a breath before you respond.
- How long do you need to wait is dependent on the age of your child.
- Ask questions. *What were you hoping for? How were you feeling? Can you explain why you made that decision?*
- How does the Gospel speak to this situation?

Know that it is a work of the Spirit. Ephesians 5: 18-20

Keep the goal in your mind and in your prayers. Revelation 11: 17