



L.I.G.H.T.
Kingdom Kids



PARENT GUIDE

Whole-Child Identity in Christ

About L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids Series

www.LIGHTKingdomKids.com



WHO AM I?

God created the first man, Adam, to have a relationship with him. He made Adam in His image to reflect His qualities like love, wisdom, and creativity. God gave Adam the freedom to choose between good and evil and the ability to manage the world. Everything God made was good.

God commanded Adam and Eve to fill the Earth with children and told them they could eat from any tree in the garden except for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and ate from the tree, which brought evil, suffering, sin, and death into the world.

God's image



Universal
HUMAN
Condition
EVERY
CHILD
MUST
Know

Sin is a separation from our creator, God, and it happens when we disobey God's law by following our will to satisfy our desires. Adam and Eve's sin was choosing to do what they wanted. Because of this disobedience, all people born after Adam inherit his sin and come into the world with inner brokenness from self-will and rebellion toward God.

And because everyone has sinned, death comes to all people. The good news is that God sent Jesus to take the penalty of death for our sins so we will never die. Instead we have eternal life with God. Kingdom Kids helps children understand this reality so they can make sense of God, themselves, their relationships, and the world.



- A GOD OF -
love & justice
- LOVE & JUSTICE -



God is holy, fair, and righteous, so He must hold us accountable for our sin. Through the Ten Commandments and Moses' moral law, Jesus, the Apostles, and the Christian church taught that humanity is under God's anger and judgment.

Jesus came to reveal the Father and to die on the cross to demonstrate God's justice and love. A crime had been committed, and rebellion had occurred. God needed to make a payment, so He sent His Son to show the greatest act of love by paying for humanity's rebellion.

There is no Christian message or good news apart from this. Sin and punishment are essential for children to understand so they can make sense of God, themselves, others, and our world.



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Brokenness Begins in Families



A child's first relationships within the family shape their future relationships. The first expression of our brokenness is in our feelings and happens in families. We always vent our fear and anger on those closest to us. Families often organize around the pain of a family member, reacting to and treating one another based on that pain.



WHOLE-CHILD in Christ IDENTITY *in Christ*

“ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (*Ephesians 2:10*)



Kingdom Kids teaches children that God created the world and everything in it, including humans, to help them understand reality and their human nature. Many kids feel guilt and shame about their mistakes, but no one has ever explained why they act in those ways or guided them to the truth about themselves and the reality of our world.

Kingdom Kids helps children understand who they are and why they act the way they do through their relationship with Christ, teaching them how the different aspects of our human nature—heart, soul, mind, body—work together to shape the people we become. This understanding helps them find purpose and experience love, joy, and peace.



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HEART SOUL *Strength* and MIND



The Greatest Commandment

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." *(Luke 10:27)*



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Inside OUT Change!

Matthew 23:26



Change is possible, accessible, and comes from God.
We heal our brokenness by changing what's inside us.



What is Human Nature

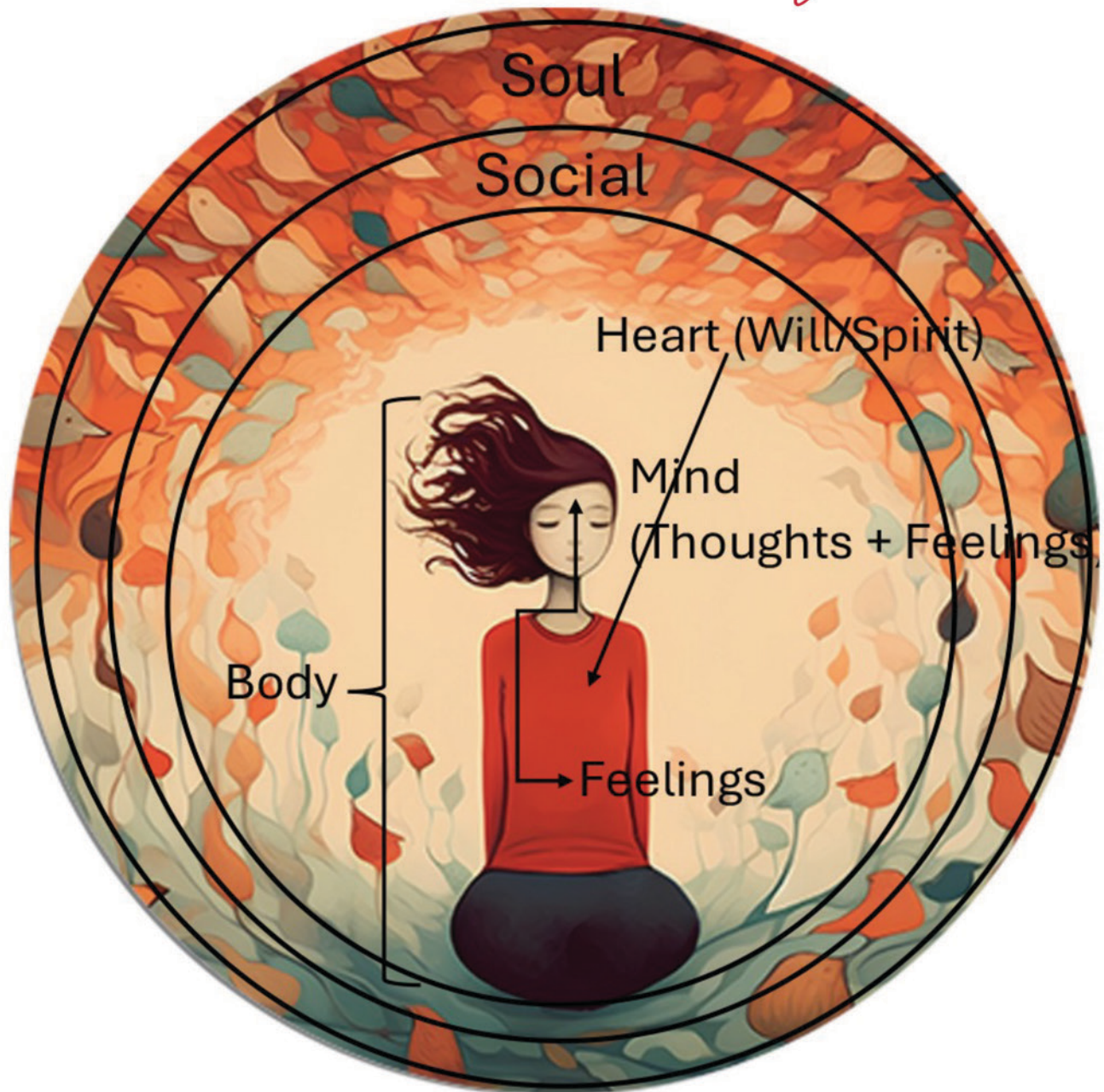


Human nature refers to the unique qualities that define what it means to be a person.

Humans have greater complexity and distinct social behaviors compared to animals or plants.

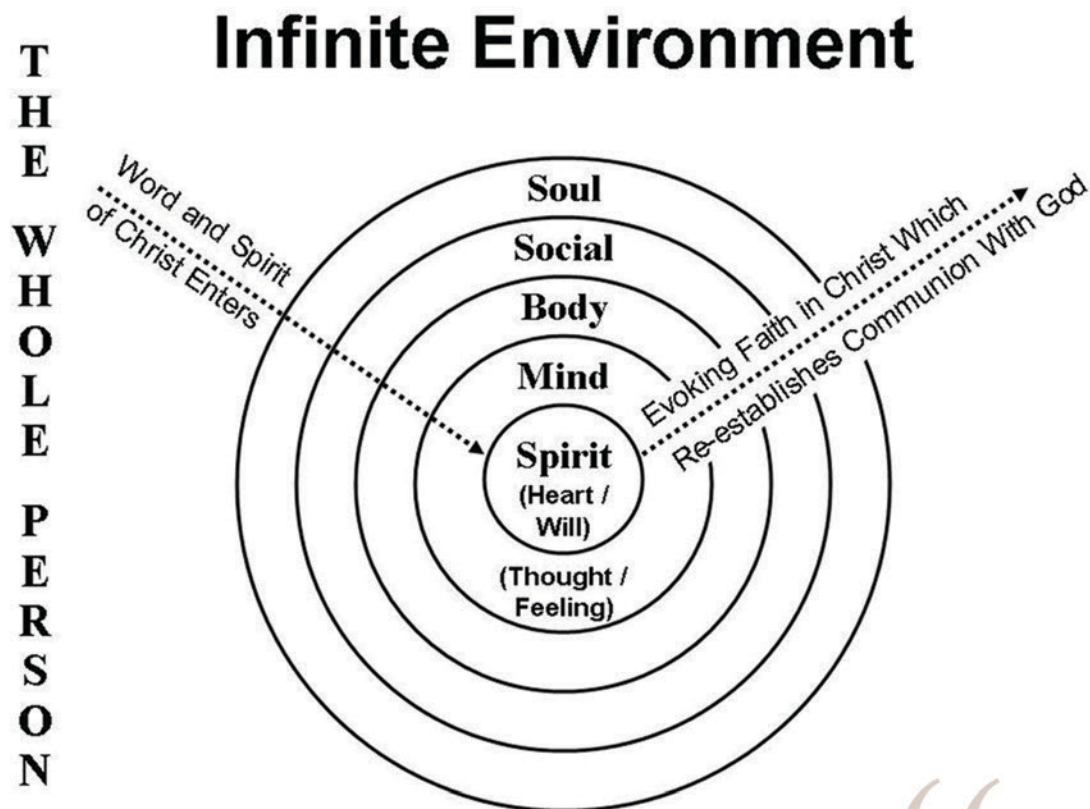


ASPECTS of HUMAN *Life*



INFINITE Environment

by Dallas Willard



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Dallas Willard's Infinite Environment diagram illustrates five essential aspects of human life, which, according to Dallas, are inseparable from every human life. These, together and in interplay, make up "human nature."

1. Mind (Thoughts/Feelings)
2. Spirit (Heart/Will)
3. Body
4. Social relam
5. Soul

Simply put, every human being thinks (has a thought life), feels, chooses, interacts with his or her body and its social context, and (more or less) integrates all of the foregoing as parts of one life. These are the essential factors in a human being, and nothing essential to human life falls outside of them. The ideal of the spiritual life in the Christian understanding is one where all of the essential parts of the human self are effectively organized around God, as they are restored and sustained by him.¹

¹Willard, D. (2021). *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

DEFINITIONS of Human Self

by Dallas Willard



HEART is a person's core, the source of creativity and power to originate. **WILL** reflects our image-bearing likeness to God in our ability to choose. **SPIRIT** is unembodied personal power.¹



SOUL integrates and organizes aspects of the whole person, interrelating all the other dimensions of the self to form one person functioning in a flow of life.¹



SOCIAL is the aspect of the human self that requires rootedness in other people and God.¹ Social-emotional awareness is vital for every child to understand.



BODY is our independent power source for action. It is the "power pack" that God has assigned to us as the field of our freedom and development. It is the place from which we live.¹



MIND is where **THOUGHTS** and **FEELINGS** originate. We get to choose what we think about, which affects our emotions. We live at the mercy of our ideas.¹ What we think of God is the most important thing about us.²



¹Willard, D. (2021). *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

²A.W. Tozer



WHOLE CHILD Assessment



Kingdom Kids assesses each child to understand their thoughts and feelings and what motivates their behaviors to help them respond to disappointments with integrity and maturity.



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OUR IDENTITY
IS NOT
IN OUR FEELINGS
Identity is in our
CHARACTER





Mind Thoughts & Feelings



“

Our mind is where our thoughts and feelings begin, showing us how things really are. We never experience thoughts and feelings separately; feelings depend on having thoughts in the mind first. Our feelings can influence our thoughts and guide what we do. Our mind reflects what we feel in our hearts.

Dallas Willard



Heart (Will/Spirit)

The wellspring of life

The **HEART** is a person's core, the source of creativity and power to originate.

The **WILL** reflects our image-bearing likeness to God in our ability to choose.

The **SPIRIT** is an unembodied personal power that is self-determined.





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Thoughts Feelings Heart

Ask kids why they feel the way they do to help them understand their actions come from the heart.



*Create in me a clean heart,
oh God, and renew a right
spirit within me.*

(Psalm 51:10)



the hidden danger lies *Beneath* the surface

The root of any problem is internal. Modifying behavior, like anger, only addresses the external symptoms that everyone sees. The trouble is inside the heart. We form character through indirection.





Out of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34)

Our attitude and speech reflect who we are on the inside, as illustrated below. Words can build or destroy lives. Dealing with the root cause can change negativity. We start by confessing what we feel; then, we pray for a desire to have a loving, peaceful heart that produces gentle, encouraging, and gracious words. Guarding what we see, listen to, and think helps fight temptations and can break habits to speak harshly or gossip.



WORDS (*External*)



HEART (*Internal*)

Harsh	Anger
Negative	Fearful
Boastful	Insecure
Overactive	Unsettled
Judgemental	Guilty
Critical	Bitter
Profanity	Impure



L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids

OBEY GOD'S
WILL & COMMANDS
they lead to
LIFE & LOVE



"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17)



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Body Language & Habit Formation



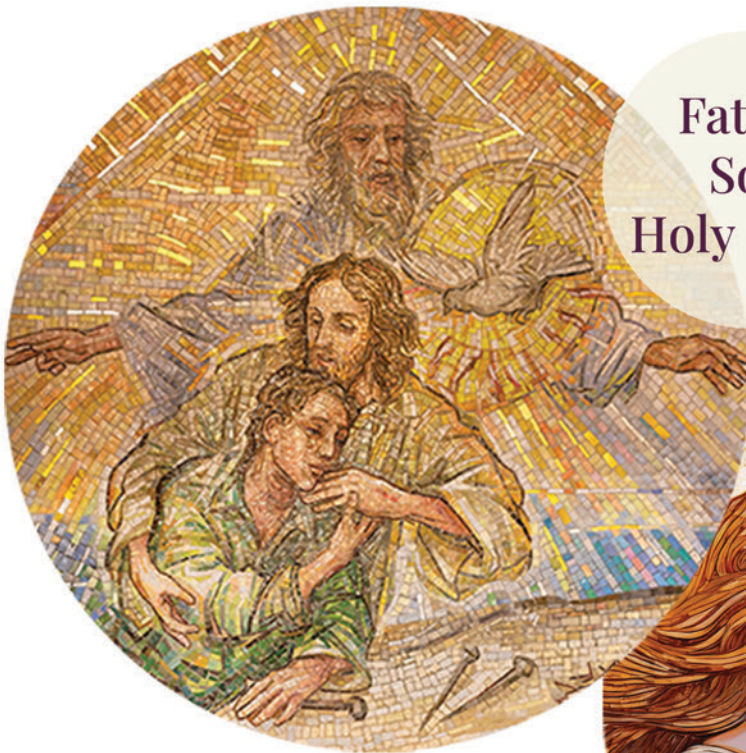
Dallas Willard describes our bodies as the "power packs" that God gave us, forming the basis for our freedom and growth. We live out of our bodies, which mainly operate through habits. Habits allow us to do things without thinking, which Willard says is a "wonderful gift of God," but he cautions there is a danger. "When bad habits become deeply ingrained, they can be challenging to change, leading to actions not aligned with God's will."

This is especially true for children, who often impulsively react to their feelings without thinking, leading to habitual emotional dysregulation. Kids must recognize the dangers of bad habits, or they will carry them into adolescence and beyond with increasing intensity. Changing behavior alone is ineffective without addressing the root causes of bad habits. Acknowledging underlying issues is crucial for change.



Social Relationships

Rootedness in Others



Father
Son
Holy Spirit



Father
Mother
Child

Living in a connected relationship with God and others makes us who we are. As image bearers of Christ, we require rootedness in others.

These connections are essential and beautiful, but they can be fragile and seem less real without the divine relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A child born into a family with a loving father and mother reflects the trinitarian model for life with God.



Social Attack & Withdrawal



Apart from God, our bodies are ready for wrongdoing. "Do unto others before they do unto you." Dallas Willard identifies two types of sin: assault and withdrawal. Assault involves actions against others' well-being (like lying and gossiping), while withdrawal shows indifference. Both reflect a lack of love and care for others.





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Social Rejection



A child not received in love feels rejected. Rejection, no matter what age, is a deep soul wound. Everyone knows what it feels like to be rejected. Everyone reaches a point in life when they realize what their childhood has given them or taken from them. Rejected children cannot give and receive love in healthy relationships and carry guilt and shame stains throughout their lives. Guilt says, "I made a mistake." Shame says, "I am a mistake."



Soul Harmony



The soul integrates all aspects of life. It orders thoughts, feelings, social relations, bodily actions, and choices. When the soul is in harmony with reality, kids can make good choices and respond to life with love and compassion.



Soul Ruin



When the soul distorts or conflicts with itself and the world, it leads to chaos, unfulfilled desires, and unhealthy relationships.

Disconnected souls have no coherence between the mind, heart, body, and social dimensions.



When a soul is in ruin, the dimensions run in different directions, where feelings don't match thoughts, thoughts don't match the will, and bodies run in another direction.



Reality

Entitlement & the Blame Game



When kids avoid facing things that make them upset or uncomfortable, or if they pretend something they don't like is not true, they deny reality. Parents sometimes rush to fix every problem children experience when, in reality, kids want to talk about challenges to understand and validate their feelings without anyone trying to fix them. When kids believe something because it makes them feel better, even if it's not true, they habitually

respond to challenges with a false sense of security. Denying reality contributes to the rise in mental health issues we see in many teens and adult children living back at home today. Their only skills for coping with challenges are entitlement and blame-shifting. This lack of integrity and accountability leads to misguided speculations, an inability to discern moral and spiritual truth, emotional turmoil, and soul ruin.



“

Reality

*is what you
run into when
you're wrong*

Dallas Willard



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Soul



“*Heart Restoration*

Jesus will

*turn the hearts of fathers to
their children and the hearts
of children to their fathers
(Malachi 4:6)*



The Way forward Truth & Life



Where do we start?

- Adapt the "teaching" in our Connect-Teach-Model process to your environment and start where you are. (*See our "About LKK Parent Guide."*)
- Understand the roots of behavior.
- Guide kids to confess wrong desires and their need for Jesus.
- Model how to live like Jesus by integrating experiences with teaching and practicing habits that will reveal and heal their soul.
- Become the redemptive community of disciples submerged in Trinitarian fellowship that God intended.

Kingdom Kids partners with you to raise the next generation of Jesus' disciples, helping them develop Christlike character and identity. To learn more about the LKK philosophy and how to implement the program in your home, church, school, or community group, please email office@familypeacecenter.com