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The Role of Religious Books in Shaping Children's Morals Amidst the Challenges of Modernity

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ABSTRACT

Religious books, especially the Bible, play an important role in forming the moral foundation of children's education. This study aims to analyze how the moral values contained in the Bible can be applied in children's education, as well as to explore the challenges of modernity that arise in this process. Using a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach, data were collected through a literature review of biblical texts and related academic literature. The literature sources were selected based on themes related to religious texts, moral development, and modernity, using Google Scholar, Semantic Scholar, and Google Books, covering the period from 2016 to 2026. The results of the study indicate that values such as love, justice, integrity, and forgiveness from the Bible have the potential to shape children's characters based on high morality. However, the application of these values is faced with major challenges, including the influence of secular culture, technological advances, and value pluralism in modern society. To overcome these challenges, an adaptive approach is needed, such as the use of value-based educational technology, and the development of teaching methods that are relevant to the current context without losing its spiritual essence. The conclusion of this study is that despite many challenges, the moral values of the Bible remain relevant in children's education, as long as they are integrated with innovative strategies that meet the needs of the times. This study contributes to the development of religious-based pedagogy that is able to compete with the dynamics of modernity without abandoning its moral roots.

Keywords: Religious Books, Children's Education, Moral Values, Modernity.
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INTRODUCTION

The evolution of modernity has brought significant changes to human life, affecting areas such as child-rearing, education, social interaction, and the development of children's morality. Advancements in information technology, globalization, and the rise of digital media have made it easy for children to acquire knowledge and access a vast array of information, transcending the limitations of time and space. On one hand, these developments offer opportunities to enhance children's creativity, cognitive abilities, and breadth of understanding. On the other hand, modernity also presents serious challenges to moral development particularly when children lack the capacity to distinguish between good and bad behavior, right and wrong, or information that is beneficial versus that which is harmful. Children, who are still in the midst of cognitive, emotional, and social development, require guidance

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from parents, educators, and their religious communities to establish a strong moral foundation as they navigate the changes of the modern era.

This phenomenon warrants serious attention, especially when viewed in the context of the rising internet usage among children in Indonesia. A 2023 baseline study by UNICEF Indonesia, titled Online Knowledge and Practice of Children in Indonesia, reveals that only 37.5% of children have received information on how to stay safe while using the internet. Furthermore, 42% of children reported feeling uncomfortable or fearful due to their experiences in the digital space, while 50.3% have encountered sexual imagery on social media. These findings indicate that the adoption of technology is not always accompanied by adequate digital literacy or moral self-regulation. Children are potentially exposed to violent content, pornography, cyberbullying, hate speech, and various forms of deviant behavior all of which can influence the development of their personalities and how they treat others. Consequently, the moral development of children cannot be separated from the shifts in their social and cultural environment, which are increasingly shaped by digital technology (Unicef, 2025).

In this context, the moral development of children emerges as a fundamental issue that requires the attention of families, educational institutions, and religious organizations. Morality is more than just a child's ability to memorize rules about "good" and "bad" behavior; it encompasses the capacity to understand values, develop ethical awareness, exercise self-control, demonstrate empathy, respect others, and take responsibility for one's own actions. Moral development is an ongoing process that necessitates instruction, the cultivation of habits, the presence of role models, and social experience (Priyono et al., 2026). When children merely receive information without guidance or the internalization of values, such moral knowledge does not necessarily translate into actual behavior (Ledo & Nendissa, 2026). Therefore, there is a need for educational resources grounded in core values, life principles, and ethical guidelines that can help children build a consistent moral orientation.

One significant resource in this process is religious scripture. Religious texts such as the Bible in the Christian tradition or the Quran in the Islamic tradition contain teachings regarding the relationship between humanity and God, the relationships between individuals, and one's responsibilities toward life (Angkouw, 2020). Values such as honesty, compassion, patience, justice, forgiveness, respect for parents, social concern, and responsibility serve as moral principles that can form the foundation for a child's character development (Maluw et al., 2026). Religious scriptures function not only as sources of knowledge and spiritual identity but also as ethical guides that provide direction for individuals in making decisions and navigating daily life (Awang, 2024). From an educational perspective, the teachings contained within these texts should be introduced using language appropriate to a child's developmental stage, through religious stories, interactive learning, the cultivation of habits, and the example set by adults.

Nevertheless, the core issue lies not merely in the availability of religious scriptures, but in how the teachings within them are understood, taught, and applied in a child's life (Tarusu, 2022). In many family environments, religious instruction remains heavily oriented toward rituals, rote memorization, and the acquisition of religious knowledge (Napitupulu, 2022). A child may be able to memorize prayers, verses, or religious stories, yet may not necessarily be capable of translating these values into their daily behavior (J. Nendissa, 2021). This situation reveals a gap between religious understanding and moral practice. The issue becomes even more complex when children observe a discrepancy between the teachings imparted by adults and the actual behavior those adults exhibit. For instance, a child might be taught to be honest, yet witness dishonesty within the family; or they might

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be taught to love others, yet experience or observe acts of discrimination and violence. Such inconsistencies can undermine the credibility of religious education and hinder the internalization of moral values.

The impact of inadequate moral development can be observed through various behaviors, such as a lack of concern for others, a failure to show respect, aggressive conduct, dishonesty, bullying, and an inability to regulate emotions. If these issues are not addressed early on, children may carry these negative behavioral patterns into adolescence and adulthood. This problem affects not only individual development but also the quality of social relationships, family life, educational environments, and society as a whole (Maria & Nendissa, 2025). Therefore, moral education should be directed not merely toward preventing deviant behavior, but also toward fostering an awareness that every action carries consequences for both oneself and others.

The first study, conducted by (Mulianto Mulianto et al., 2023) and titled "The Effectiveness of Learning About Biblical Figures Using the Positive Action Bible Curriculum on Students' Character," indicates a significant improvement in children's cognitive, emotional, and moral development following instruction based on a Bible-centered curriculum. The second study, by (Bulan & George, 2024) presented in the article "Shema and Christian Religious Education in the Family in Deuteronomy 6:4–9: The Bible and the Quest for the Development of Children's Character" examines the application of the Shema principle from Deuteronomy 6:4–9 as a foundation for Christian religious education within the family. The third study, by (Wibowo et al., 2025), is titled "A Theoretical Review: The Qur'an as a Foundation for Character Education in Early Childhood." Its findings suggest that the Qur'an contains moral educational values, such as honesty, compassion, justice, patience, and responsibility.

Collectively, these studies demonstrate that religious texts make a significant contribution to character education and the moral development of children. However, existing research has largely focused on specific religious traditions, the implementation of curricula, or character education within family settings and educational institutions. There has been limited integrative discussion regarding the role of religious texts as a source of moral values relevant to addressing the challenges of modernity in children's lives. The novelty of the present study lies in its effort to develop an understanding of the relationship between moral values found in religious texts, the process of internalizing these values, and the challenges of modernity that influence children's behavior. This research views religious texts not merely as a source of normative teachings, but as a foundation for cultivating ethical awareness a process that must be realized through education, the provision of role models, the establishment of habits, and ongoing guidance in daily life.

Thus, this study is significant for analyzing how moral teachings found in religious texts can contribute to the development of a child's character and behavior, while also identifying the challenges that hinder their application in contemporary life. Specifically, this research aims to identify the moral values contained within religious texts, analyze their role in the process of a child's moral formation, and explain strategies for internalizing these values in the face of the influences of modernity. From an academic perspective, this study is expected to enrich the fields of religious education, character education, and children's moral development. In practical terms, the findings are intended to serve as a reference for parents, educators, and religious institutions in developing moral education that goes beyond the mere mastery of religious knowledge fostering, instead, behaviors that reflect values such as kindness, care, honesty, tolerance, and responsibility. In this way, religious texts remain relevant in shaping a generation of integrity amidst the changing times.

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RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. This method was chosen because the research aims to understand, examine, and provide an in-depth description of the role of religious texts as a source of moral values in shaping children's character and behavior amidst the advancement of modernity. A qualitative descriptive approach allows the researcher to elaborate on various concepts, theological perspectives, moral values, and the relevance of religious teachings to children's moral development, without relying on statistical measurements. The research focuses on understanding how the teachings contained in religious texts specifically the Bible, within the context of Christian education provide a foundation for cultivating values such as honesty, responsibility, love, care, discipline, respect, and self-control in children (Sugiyono, 2023).

Data collection was conducted through library research, which involved gathering, reading, analyzing, and identifying various literature sources relevant to the research focus. Primary data sources include religious texts specifically the Bible that contain teachings on moral education, character formation, and parental responsibility in raising children, such as Deuteronomy 6:6–7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, and Colossians 3:20–21. Meanwhile, secondary data sources were obtained from books on theology, religious education, and child developmental psychology, as well as scholarly journal articles and previous research addressing moral education, character formation, religious literacy, and the influence of modernity on children's behavior. The literature included in this study is limited to publications from 2021–2026 to capture the latest developments in thought and scientific findings. Nevertheless, classical literature with conceptual and theological relevance is also utilized as a theoretical foundation, particularly for understanding the nature of moral education and the teachings found in religious texts. A literature search was conducted via Google Scholar, Garuda, SINTA, and various academic publishers, using keywords such as religious texts, children's morality, character education, Christian religious education, modernity, and children's moral development (I Made Laut Mertha Jaya, 2020).

Data analysis was conducted using a content analysis technique, involving the stages of identification, reduction, classification, interpretation, and synthesis. The collected literature was categorized by key themes and subsequently analyzed to uncover the relationships between moral values found in religious texts, the process of internalizing these values in children, and the challenges posed by modernity such as the advancement of digital technology, social media, shifting patterns of family interaction, and the transformation of social values. Furthermore, the findings were critically interpreted to formulate an understanding of the relevance of religious texts as a foundation for the moral development of children (Mardawani, 2020). Ultimately, this research aims to provide a comprehensive conceptual description of how religious teachings contribute to building children’s character fostering integrity, a sense of responsibility, and the moral resilience needed to navigate the dynamics of modern life.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

What is a Religious Book?

Religious texts are narratives formed from various cultures and teachings passed down from generation to generation. Religious texts contain many traditions, and within these traditions there are various teachings (J. Nendissa, 2021). These teachings are moral values and challenges of modernity. Religious texts in various major religions contain teachings that encompass universal principles such as honesty, compassion, justice, and respect for others. These values often form the foundation of children's education, both in the family environment and in

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religious educational institutions (Nole, 2024). Therefore, families play a major role in introducing children to the teachings of the scriptures. Parents often act as the first educators who instill these moral values through scripture reading, religion-based stories, or daily religious practices such as praying together. These activities not only help children understand the meaning of moral values but also strengthen family relationships.

However, the challenges of modernity have created new dynamics in the approach to religious-based education. One of the main challenges is the shift in how the younger generation accesses and understands religious teachings. In the digital age, religious information, including interpretations of holy scriptures, is widely available through the internet or social media. While this opens up opportunities for wider access to religious education, there is a risk that unverified information or biased interpretations could influence children's understanding. As a result, the role of mentors such as parents or religious teachers has become increasingly important in helping children sort through information and understand the context of the scriptures.

Religious texts are writings that are accepted, recognized, and used as sacred and authoritative within a religious community. Some texts are even considered holy writings (Awang, 2024). Religious texts play an important role in various aspects of life, so studying various parts of religious texts also means understanding the foundations of religion itself. Religious texts are used as spiritual power, as bibliomancy, i.e., fortune telling and guidance for life, used for worship, used for meditation and devotion, and used as a source for building and maintaining key doctrines (Napitupulu, 2022). The Bible is the basis and reference for religious communities in Indonesia because it is one of the religious texts that plays the most important role in building tolerance in religious conflicts, especially for Christians to live a righteous and good life in accordance with the Bible. The text of the Bible provides the basis for building religious tolerance through the teachings of Jesus Christ found within it.

The conceptual contribution of this study lies in advancing an understanding of religious books as a medium for moral formation that operates through an integrative process involving theological foundations, pedagogical strategies, children’s psychological development, and the dynamics of modern social contexts. Religious books serve not merely as sources of religious knowledge but also as instruments for fostering critical awareness, social sensitivity, and ethical responsibility in response to the changing times. The novelty of this analysis lies in its effort to connect the theological values embedded in religious books with the concrete needs of children’s moral development amid digital culture and contemporary social change. Through this approach, the study not only discusses the importance of reading religious books but also explains the mechanisms through which religious values can be internalized and translated into children’s everyday lives.

Ultimately, children’s moral formation amid the challenges of modernity requires an educational approach that does not separate faith from real-life experiences. Religious books should be developed as learning resources that are contextual, communicative, and appropriate to children’s developmental stages. Values such as love, honesty, justice, forgiveness, responsibility, and respect for human dignity should be conveyed through stories, reflection, dialogue, and everyday practices. Synergy among religious books, families, churches, and educational institutions provides an essential foundation for nurturing a generation that possesses not only religious knowledge but also moral maturity and the ability to make ethical decisions. Thus, religious education can make a meaningful contribution to preparing children to face modernity without losing their spiritual orientation, personal integrity, and sense of social responsibility.

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Moral Values in Religious Books for Children's Education

Religious texts, including the Bible, have long served as moral and spiritual guides for humanity. In the context of children's education, the Bible provides a foundation of moral values aimed at shaping good character, ethics, and behavior (Urbanus, 2020). These values are relevant not only to religious life but also to social interactions in an increasingly complex society. Children, as the next generation, need strong moral guidance from an early age to grow into moral, responsible, and empathetic individuals.

The Value of Love: The basis of all moral teachings

One of the main moral values emphasized in the Bible is love. This value is reflected in many parts of the Bible, including Matthew 22:37-39, which mentions the two greatest commandments: to love God and to love others as yourself (Tarigan et al., 2022). In the context of children's education, this teaching encourages loving parenting. Parents and educators are encouraged to exemplify love in their daily actions, both within the family and in society.

Love teaches children to care for others, respect differences, and treat others with kindness (Kenanga et al., 2023). Children raised in a loving environment tend to have a high level of empathy, which is important for building healthy relationships with others. The teaching of love in the Bible also emphasizes forgiveness, as explained in Ephesians 4:32, where Christians are encouraged to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven them.

Justice: Moral values to shape a fair character

The value of justice is an important element in children's moral education. The Bible consistently teaches the importance of being fair to everyone regardless of social status, ethnicity, or religion (Nafisah et al., 2022). In Micah 6:8, humanity is called to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” This teaching encourages children to understand the importance of justice in their actions. In the family or school environment, the value of justice can be taught through honesty, fair sharing, and respect for the rights of others. For example, when children have conflicts with their friends, they can be guided to resolve the issue fairly, listen to all parties' points of view, and reach a mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, the value of justice helps children develop critical thinking skills and a sense of social responsibility.

Honesty: The foundation of ethics and integrity

Honesty is a fundamental value taught in the Bible (Amin, 2017). Proverbs 12:22 states that “a liar is an abomination to the Lord, but one who acts faithfully is His delight.” This teaching conveys a powerful message about the importance of speaking and acting honestly. In the context of children's education, honesty is one of the key aspects in building a trustworthy character. It is important for parents and educators to set an example of honesty in their daily actions. Children tend to imitate the behavior of the adults around them. If they see honest parents or teachers, they will be more likely to internalize this value. In addition, Bible stories such as the story of Zacchaeus who became honest after meeting Jesus (Luke 19:1-10) can be interesting teaching tools for children.

Forgiveness: Building harmonious relationships

Forgiveness is a value that is strongly emphasized in the Bible, especially through the teachings of Jesus. In Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus teaches that we must forgive others, not just once or twice, but seventy times seven

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times. This message emphasizes the importance of forgiveness as part of a life full of love (Sumiwi et al., 2022). In children's education, forgiveness can be taught through a gentle approach when children make mistakes. Instead of punishing them harshly, parents and educators can use these moments to teach that everyone can make mistakes, but they also have the opportunity to correct them. By learning to practice forgiveness, children will be better able to manage conflicts, maintain good relationships with others, and develop humility.

Humility: Increasing empathy and openness

Humility is a character trait that is often overlooked but is very important in shaping children's morals. In Philippians 2:3, people are taught to "not seek their own interests, but to be humble, considering others more important than themselves" (Tambunan, 2023). In a modern world that often encourages competition, this value teaches children not to be arrogant, but to respect and support others.

Humility can be taught by encouraging children to appreciate the strengths of others, accept criticism graciously, and understand that everyone has an important role in society. Children who are humble tend to be more accepted in their social environment and more open to learning from life experiences.

The moral values taught in the Bible, as described above, such as love, justice, honesty, forgiveness, and humility, provide important guidance in shaping children's character. These values are relevant not only in a religious context but also in broader social life. By providing Bible-based moral education from an early age, children will be better prepared to face life's challenges with integrity, empathy, and a sense of responsibility.

The Relevance of Biblical Teachings in the Modern Era

The Bible has been a significant moral and spiritual guide for many people around the world for centuries. As a book that encompasses universal teachings about love, justice, and wisdom, the Bible has shaped not only individual lives but also communities and value systems in society. However, in the modern era marked by rapid social change, secularism, and technological advances, questions arise about how the teachings of the Bible remain relevant, especially in the context of children's education.

Biblical teachings on universal morality

The teachings of the Bible remain relevant because many of the values contained within it are universal and transcend time. For example, the principle of love for others as stated in Matthew 22:39, "Love your neighbor as yourself," is a moral guideline that is relevant in various contexts. This value can be applied in children's education by teaching them to care for their friends, family, and community. In addition, the teaching about forgiveness in Matthew 6:14-15 teaches the importance of reconciliation and peaceful conflict resolution (Ngamon et al., 2024). In the modern world, where children are often exposed to competitive environments and social stress, this value can be the foundation for developing good character. Teaching children to forgive and resolve conflicts in a healthy manner helps them grow into emotionally and socially mature individuals.

The conflict between traditionalism and modernity

While biblical values remain relevant, challenges arise when these principles clash with modern norms and trends. For example, the Bible emphasizes the importance of the family as the basic unit of society, as reflected in Genesis 2:24, which highlights the relationship between husband and wife as the foundation of the family.

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However, in the modern era, family structures are increasingly diverse, including single-parent families, adoptive families, and non-traditional couples. When it comes to educating children, it is important to explore how biblical teachings on the family can be adapted without losing its core values. An inclusive approach to various forms of modern families can be achieved without sacrificing core values such as love, emotional support, and commitment.

Practical Application in Children's Education

To maintain the relevance of biblical teachings in children's education, a creative and flexible approach is needed. One strategy is project-based learning, which involves children in activities that reflect biblical values. For example, children can be invited to participate in community service activities such as helping neighbors or participating in charitable activities, to practice the values of love and caring.

A narrative approach is also important in teaching biblical values. Bible stories can be brought to life through role-playing, visual arts, or group discussions that encourage children to understand the moral of each story. With this method, children not only memorize the teachings but also internalize these values in their daily lives. Furthermore, it is important to involve parents and the community in the child's education process. Parents can act as role models who reflect biblical values in everyday actions, such as sharing, praying together, and showing love to family members and others. The church community can also support this through programs focused on children's education, such as Sunday school.

Although the three biblical teachings mentioned above face challenges from increasingly dominant technology, they remain relevant as a source of moral values and ethical guidance. With an adaptive approach, the Bible can continue to be a strong foundation for children's education. Through the use of technology, a focus on universal values, and community engagement, biblical teachings can be applied to children's daily lives, guiding them to face the challenges of the modern world with wisdom and solid morality.

Challenges of Educating Children Based on Religious Scriptures (the Bible)

Educating children based on religious scriptures (the Bible) plays a crucial role in shaping the character and morals of the younger generation. However, the application of religious teachings to educating children faces various challenges in the modern era. These challenges come from various directions, including the influence of secularism, religious pluralism, and changing social norms.

The Influence of Secularism on Children's Education

Secularism has become one of the main challenges facing religious-based education. In the context of secularism, public life and educational systems tend to separate religion from the formal aspects of education. Schools in many countries emphasize a religiously neutral approach, avoiding explicit references to sacred texts such as the Bible. This is often done to ensure inclusivity in a pluralistic society. For parents or educators who want to teach biblical values, secularism creates a dilemma. When children are exposed to more secular values at school, they may feel that religious teachings at home are less relevant to their daily lives.

Imbalanced Roles Between Parents and Schools

Another challenge to Bible-based education is the imbalanced roles of parents and schools in educating children. In many cases, parents rely on schools to educate their children, including in spiritual matters. However,

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in modern, more secular education systems, this role is often neglected, leaving the primary responsibility for teaching religious values to parents. Not all parents have the time, knowledge, or skills to convey biblical teachings in an engaging way to their children. Furthermore, in families where both parents work, time constraints are often a major obstacle. Parents' absence from their children's moral education can weaken the influence of biblical values in their children's lives.

Strategies for Overcoming Challenges

While these challenges are significant, there are various strategies that can be implemented to overcome the obstacles in religious-based education.

1. **Contextual Approach:** Adapting Bible teachings into the context of children's daily lives to make them more relevant and easier to understand.
2. **Multicultural Education:** Teaching biblical values in a way that encourages tolerance and respect for differences, without sacrificing the fundamental principles of faith.
3. **Technology Integration:** Using engaging apps, videos, or digital platforms to convey biblical teachings to children in an interactive and fun way.
4. **Family Involvement:** Increasing family involvement in moral education, such as reading the Bible together, discussing moral stories, or attending religious activities.
5. **Training for Parents and Teachers:** Providing training for parents and teachers on how to effectively convey biblical values in a modern context.

The challenges of religious-based education for children, especially the Bible, cannot be ignored in the modern era. Secularism, religious pluralism, changing social norms, and the influence of technology are obstacles that require serious attention. With a strategic and adaptive approach, biblical values can remain relevantly taught, providing a solid moral foundation for children without ignoring the realities of a changing world.

Strategies for Integrating Religious Values and Modern Education

Integrating religious values, particularly those derived from the Bible, into modern education is a complex endeavor that requires an innovative approach. In this modern era, the primary challenge is finding common ground between universal moral teachings and the evolving needs of society. Childhood education, as the foundation for character formation for future generations, is a crucial aspect that requires careful attention to this integration.

One approach is contextual teaching, where biblical teachings are viewed not merely as ancient texts, but as sources of inspiration relevant to the situations and challenges of our time. Stories found in the Bible, such as Jesus' parables about love and forgiveness, can be explained in the context of children's daily lives in the modern world. For example, teachings about the value of love can be illustrated through children's experiences sharing with their friends at school or showing empathy for others in need. With this approach, children not only learn moral teachings theoretically but also understand how to apply them practically in their lives. On the other hand, technological advances and digitalization offer significant opportunities to convey religious values in an engaging and interactive way. Digital platforms, such as educational apps or social media, can be used to introduce biblical teachings in ways tailored to children's interests. Animations, educational games, and interactive videos featuring biblical stories can make the learning process more enjoyable (J. E. Nendissa, 2021). For example, digital games that invite children to solve moral challenges based on biblical stories can be effective learning tools, combining

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entertainment with education. Furthermore, it is important to recognize that integrating religious values into modern education requires sensitivity to cultural and religious diversity. In the era of globalization, children often grow up in multicultural and pluralistic environments. Therefore, an inclusive approach is necessary, emphasizing universal biblical values, such as compassion, honesty, and responsibility, without neglecting respect for other faiths. This can be done by building healthy interfaith dialogue, both at school and in the family environment, so that children are taught to understand that despite differences in beliefs, there are many similarities in the moral values held by various religious traditions.

The role of parents and educators is also crucial in this integration process. Parents, as the first and primary educators, have a responsibility to be role models in living out biblical values. By providing concrete examples in everyday life, such as demonstrating love and forgiveness in family relationships, parents can provide children with direct experience of how biblical teachings are applied. Meanwhile, educators in schools also need to be trained to teach these values professionally and relevantly, so that children can experience consistency between home and school education. Furthermore, it is also important to adapt teaching methods to the child's developmental stage. Young children, for example, tend to more easily understand moral values through concrete stories and activities (Liud et al., 2024). In this regard, methods such as storytelling about biblical characters who demonstrated courage or kindness can be used to instill these values. Meanwhile, older children can be invited to discuss the relevance of biblical teachings in dealing with moral dilemmas they experience, such as how to be honest even when facing unpleasant consequences. In modern education, the integration of religious values also needs to consider the importance of developing critical thinking skills and self-reflection. Children are encouraged not only to passively accept biblical teachings but also to reflect on their meaning and evaluate how these values can be applied in their lives (Rusdiyanto, 2019). For example, when learning about the importance of forgiveness, children can be encouraged to think about situations where they find it difficult to forgive and how they can overcome these feelings based on biblical teachings. This way, learning becomes more meaningful and children are more encouraged to internalize these values.

One of the main challenges in this integration is addressing the negative influences of media and popular culture, which often contradict the moral values taught in the Bible. To overcome this challenge, collaborative efforts between families, schools, and religious communities are needed to create an environment that supports children's character development. For example, families can limit children's exposure to media content that is inconsistent with the moral values they want to instill, while schools and religious communities can provide positive alternatives, such as activity-based moral education programs that actively engage children. Finally, the integration of religious values and modern education must also involve ongoing evaluation. This is crucial to ensure that the methods used are effective in instilling moral values in children (Suyitno, 2022). Evaluation can be conducted through observations of changes in children's behavior, feedback from the children themselves, and reflections from parents and educators on the success of the implemented approach. With consistent evaluation, the approach used can be adjusted to better meet children's needs, thus making the educational process more dynamic and relevant.

All of these efforts aim to ensure that biblical values are not merely a passively taught cultural heritage, but become an integral part of children's character formation in the modern era. By utilizing technology, respecting diversity, involving families and communities, and implementing approaches that are relevant to current developments, the moral values of the Bible can continue to live and make a positive contribution to children's education in an ever-changing world.

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CONCLUSION

Religious texts such as the Bible play a crucial role in shaping children's moral values, offering ethical guidelines that have been the foundation of social life for centuries. Values such as love, honesty, forgiveness, and respect for others are woven into biblical narratives and teachings that are easily accessible to children and parents. In an educational context, religious texts provide explicit guidance for developing noble character, supporting children's development not only spiritually but also socially. However, the relevance and application of these values face significant challenges in the modern era, as secularism, globalization, and technological advancements continue to transform how people view life and education.

One of the key strengths of religious texts in children's education is their ability to convey universal values that transcend cultural and temporal boundaries. The Bible, for example, contains relevant stories for teaching children how to resolve moral conflicts, such as the story of forgiveness in the story of "The Prodigal Son" or the lesson of compassion in the parable of "The Good Samaritan." These teachings can help children understand moral complexities in age-appropriate ways. Furthermore, the values instilled in religious texts encourage the development of empathy, self-discipline, and a sense of responsibility for others characteristics much needed in a modern society often rife with competition and individualism.

Religious texts such as the Bible remain a rich source for children's moral education, providing clear guidelines for building good character. However, to face the challenges of modernity, these values must be applied contextually, taking into account pluralism, technological developments, and social change. Education based on religious texts must innovate in its delivery and approach to remain relevant to the younger generation and able to compete with the modern narratives that dominate their lives. With the right approach, religious texts can not only maintain their role in children's education but also become a force for moral transformation in the modern era.

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