

Sermon #1 – Modeling the Message

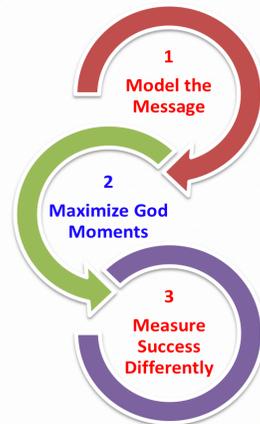
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

February 04, 2018

Family Matters

If you're a Christian parent, no doubt you've come face to face with the limits of your knowledge and experience. At whatever stage of life—witnessing the birth of your firstborn; seeing your child's capacity for destruction in the terrible twos; preparing your kids for the first day of school; helping your teenager struggle through an awkward and confusing stage of life; or advising your son or daughter about marriage—it has a sobering effect on you? The point is that as we go through life whether we are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, even children we look for advice on how we can do it better. God's Word gives us the answer as we begin looking at Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and the three steps of mentoring the next generation.

3 Steps of Mentoring Your Family



Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV) – ⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Three Parenting Hacks to Apply Today

God's Word is filled with great advice on how we can do a better job raising up the next generation with God's Word. Sometimes we just need a little advice on where to start in raising up our children. Start with one of these parenting hacks this week to make an eternal difference today.

Parenting Hack #1 – Choose Your Words Wisely (1 Thessalonians 4:18 - Therefore encourage one another with these words.)

Our words carry enormous weight. More than we sometimes think. They often impact people for decades, providing the courage to press on or one more reason to give up...The right word spoken at the right time can make all the difference in building people up. Choose well.

Parenting Hack #2 – Choose Your Time Wisely (Ephesians 5:15,16 – ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time...)

(1) Rise Early, (2) Eat right, (3) Exercise, (4) Spend more time with your family and those you love, (5) Spend less time focused on what you cannot change and what is out of your control, (6) Live for Jesus while you have breath and you will make an eternal difference...

Parenting Hack #3 – Choose to be the Right Example

Philippians 1:27 (HCSB) – Just one thing: Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, working side by side for the faith that comes from the gospel...

Engage Your Teens in their Faith Development – Michael Jackson

“Because I said so!” A phrase uttered by nearly every parent throughout history. As a child I thought this just meant my dad was making an arbitrary decision and there really wasn't a reason. As a dad now myself I realize there are a seemingly hundreds of different variables zipping through my mind influencing my answer; things you just couldn't explain to small child, and “because I said so” was the simplest reason to give. As children mature into teenagers the concrete way of looking at the world develops into the capacity to deal with abstract ideas and hopefully, “because I said so” isn't quite as necessary. Unfortunately that is still the approach we often take when our teens begin asking questions about their faith. Raising children and teens to be followers of Jesus in a culture that is so loudly, and pervasively opposed to Christ is an increasingly formidable challenge. Here are several ways to engage your teens in their own faith development:

- **Don't be upset when your children start to ask questions.** Rejecting the faith of your childhood is very different from asking honest questions and expressing doubt. A teen's struggle to find answers to real and serious questions is a step on the road to spiritual growth. Try not to dodge difficult questions because they will look for

answers other places. If you don't know, be honest and commit to discovering the answer together.

- **Never forget that spiritual maturity is a life-long process.** If you are Christian parent your level of faith, maturity, and understanding are not the same as when you were a teenager. You have gone through a long process of growth that is still continuing. Show grace and patience.
- **Be consistent in teaching principles and through example.** Talk about your faith and do not stop. Be vigilante that your own actions, attitudes, and words match the principles you are trying to teach
- **Remember that spiritual maturity is born out of struggle.** God redeems difficult situations to bring His good out of our rebellious bad. That mistake your teen just made might just be the very thing God is using to whittle them into who He wants them to become.
- **Never stop praying for your kids.** We can never be successful in force-feeding faith to our kids. We can only teach them and answer their questions, and trust God.
- **Don't ever think that the story is over.** God's ways are not our ways. And His script for our story and the story of our kids is not the script we would write.
- **Encourage your teen to be an active part of the church.** Teens benefit from community with like-minded peers well as through relationships built with other adults in a loving Christ-centered environment.

Adapted from Walt Mueller, President of Center for Parent/Youth Understanding www.cpyu.org

Helping Your Child Get Excited About Bible Reading – Julie Jackson

Throughout the week there are many things vying for the attention of our children. Sports, extracurricular activities, TV, video games and homework will often fill up the free me of their days. Along with the busy-ness most children are faced with, the Bible can at times seem like a book that is hard to connect with, hard to understand, and that is sometimes intimidating to our kids.

There are ways that we as parents can get our children excited about reading the Bible on a daily basis. As Christian parents we all know the importance of hiding God's Word in our hearts, but we sometimes set the expectations too low for our kids. Children will often times reach the standard we set for them. If the bar is low, so will be their goals, if it is high you will see them reach for it!

Here are some ways you can encourage Bible reading with enthusiasm in your home:

- Let your kids "catch you" reading God's Word. When you model a behavior, they see it as something good, something they should strive for.

- Share with your kids about what God is teaching you each week through His Word. What new and exciting things are you learning. What new insights have you gained?
- If your child doesn't have a Bible translation that they can understand, think about purchasing a new Bible for them. If you are unable to do so, or your child does not own a Bible of their own please contact Julie Jackson. We will set you up!
- Remember that your enthusiasm is contagious! We show our delight in God's Word in the way we talk about it with our kids.
- Looking for some apps to use? Try the Beginners Bible App (ipad only) for ages 2-6 or The Adventure Bible Memory (ipad only) ages 7-10 or the Bible App for Kids (android) for all ages.

My Study Notes:



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