

# WHAT'S THE WORD?

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Truth In An Uncertain World

**Happy Mother's Day**

# Moms in the Bible

- Eve (Chava) Genesis 3:20
- Sarah Genesis 21:1-3
- Rebekah Genesis 25:1
- Leah Genesis 29-30
- Rachel Genesis 29-30
- Jochebed Exodus 6:20
- Hannah 1 Samuel 1
- Mary Luke 1
- Elizabeth Luke 1

- Each of them faced challenges emotionally and spiritually.
- Each of them encountered tests of faith.
- Each of them had to trust God when making important decisions.

**Today's Topic**

**Bible's Guide for Parents**

Children are a gift of the Lord

Psalm 127:3

\* No one understands this more than moms

# Reggie Joiner's five basic assumptions foundational to the faith development of families

- Nothing is more important than someone's relationship with God.
- No one has more potential to influence a child's relationship with God than a parent.
- No one has more potential to influence the parent than the church.
- The church's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when it partners with a parent.
- The parent's potential to influence a child dramatically increases when that parent partners with the church.

# Whose assignment is it?

The First Melissa Kids and Student Ministries exist to partner with parents and families to passionately make disciples of Jesus.

# What happens when we give?

Giving financially to First Melissa allows us to support our Kids and Student Ministries as we intentionally reach the next generation with the gospel.

# Biblical Guide for Parenting

## Deuteronomy 6:1-12

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them...

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it,” Deuteronomy 6:1

# Why do we need to teach our kids?

“that you might do them in the land where you are going” Deuteronomy 6:1

A sign that someone has really learned something is when they do something alone, when the teacher is not around and the environment is different.

# “the land where you are going”

- Does it feel like your family is stuck in neutral spiritually?
- God’s expectation is for your family to keep moving forward.
- Spiritual progress is normal, not unusual.

“so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.” Deuteronomy 6:2

**“You and your son and your grandson”**

**Q: Are you building a legacy of faithfulness?**

**Q: HOW are you building a legacy of faithfulness?**

Parents define for their children the role that religious faith and practice ought to play in life, whether important or not, which most children roughly adopt. Parents set a 'glass ceiling' of religious commitment above which their children rarely rise.

- From sociologists Christian Smith and Amy Adamczyk in their book *Handing Down the Faith*

- <https://growingfaith.com.au/articles/how-do-parents-influence-their-childrens-faith>

# Multi-generational discipleship

“so that you and your son and your grandson  
might fear the Lord your God”

Deuteronomy 6:2

Applies to:

Blood generations

Spiritual generations

# When disciplined, what should we do?

- Fear the Lord your God
- Keep all His statutes
- Keep His commandments

**For how long shall we do this?**

**“All the days of your life” Deuteronomy 6:2**

“O Israel, you should listen [*shema* שְׁמַע] and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Deuteronomy 6:3

**“that it may be well with you”**

This phrase occurs 8 times in Deuteronomy

Is that what your family wants?

Is that what your family needs?

How? “listen and be careful to do it”

# Whom does God bless?

Blessing follows obedience

“That your days may be prolonged”

Deuteronomy 6:2

“That it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly”

Deuteronomy 6:3

“Hear [*shema* שְׁמַע], O Israel! The  
Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”  
Deuteronomy 6:4

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **might** [מְאֹד *mâ‘od*].”

Deuteronomy 6:5

מְאֹד *mâ‘od*

Definition: very, exceedingly

In his book called, “Raising Kids to Love Jesus,” Gary Oliver writes...

“Our primary call isn’t to be good parents. Our primary call is to model a vibrant and vital love relationship with the living God.”

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.” Deuteronomy 6:6

Questions:

- What is on my heart?
- Do I need a heart priority transplant?

“You shall teach them **diligently** to your sons 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 up.” Deuteronomy 6:7

\*diligently = intentionally and repeatedly

# When Should We Teach Our Kids?

<u>Times</u>	<u>Communication</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Meal Time	Formal Discussion	Establish Values
Drive Time	Informal Dialogue	Interpret Life
Bed Time	Intimate Conversation	Build Intimacy
Morning Time	Encouraging Words	Instill Purpose

- Brian Bill

# Bind them as a sign

“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:8-9

# “As a sign on your hand”

Tefillin תפילין (also called phylacteries) are a set of small black leather boxes containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah, which are worn by observant Jews during weekday morning prayers.



Source: Wikipedia

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# “On the doorposts of your house”



A mezuzah (מְזוּזָה "doorpost") is a piece of parchment (often contained in a decorative case) inscribed with specified Hebrew verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21).

A mezuzah is affixed to the doorframe of homes to fulfill the mitzvah (Biblical commandment) to inscribe the words of the Shema "on the doorposts of your house" (Deuteronomy 6:9).

Source: Wikipedia

# Our God Provides

“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” Deuteronomy 6:10-12

# As a Jew, Jesus celebrated the Feast of Passover

Now His parents [Joseph and Mary] went to Jerusalem every year at the **Feast of the Passover**. And when He [Jesus] became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; Luke 2:41-42

On the first day of **Unleavened Bread**, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him [Jesus], “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the **Passover**?” Mark 14:12

# Maggid – Telling the Story of Passover in the Seder

The Passover Story is the heart of the Seder as a parent tells the Exodus story to his children.

- “And when your children say to you, ‘What does this rite mean to you?’ you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’ ” Exodus 12:26-27
- “You shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’” Exodus 13:8
- “And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.’” Exodus 13:14
- “When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the Lord our God commanded you?’ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.’” Deuteronomy 6:20-21

# Action Verbs in Deuteronomy 6 about Raising Children

- Fear the Lord your God
- Keep all His statutes
- Listen
- Be careful to do it
- Love the Lord your God
- Teach them diligently
- Do not forget the Lord
- Fear only the Lord your God
- Worship Him
- Swear by His name
- Do not follow other gods
- Do not put the Lord your God to the test
- Diligently keep the commandments of the Lord
- Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord
- Observe all these statutes
- Fear the Lord our God
- Observe all this commandment

A recent **Lifeway Research study** found 9 in 10 Americans have read at least some of the Bible, but just 22% have finished the book at least once. Churchgoers were more likely than others to have read larger percentages of the Bible. Even among those who attend church services more than once a week, around 3 in 5 (59%) say they've read the entire Bible at least once.

While the State of Discipleship found Bible engagement to be a positive factor for adults' spiritual growth, previous Lifeway Research studies have shown the importance of Bible reading for the next generation. The **biggest predictor** of whether a child becomes a faithful believer as a young adult is whether or not they regularly read the Bible growing up.

Additionally, while **66% of churchgoing teenagers stop attending** when they become young adults, those who spend time regularly reading the Bible are **1.23 times less likely** to drop out compared to those who do not spend personal time in Scripture.

Parenting requires

**TIME**

**T**enderness

**I**nitiative

**M**oral standards

**E**xpectations

# THE FOUR PHASES OF PARENTHOOD

*Bob Hostetler*

# THE FOUR PHASES OF PARENTHOOD BY *Bob Hostetler*

## Phase One: Commander

- In the first years of a child's life, a parent does everything for him. The parent functions as a benevolent dictator, telling the child who to listen to, what to eat, when to go to bed, how to perform a task.
- In this phase of parenthood, the task of the loving parent is to encourage a child's growth from discipline to *self*-discipline. As paraphrased in *The Message*, "A refusal to correct is a refusal to love; love your children by disciplining them" (Proverbs 13:24).
- During my children's early years, I repeatedly used the parenting phrases "Yes, because . . ." or "No, because . . ." I not only dictated my children's actions, but also took pains to explain the reasons a certain thing was prescribed or prohibited.

# THE FOUR PHASES OF PARENTHOOD BY *Bob Hostetler*

## Phase Two: Coach

- I used [kids'] summer break to teach them about work and wages — interviewing, hiring and even occasionally firing them from jobs around the house and garden. The idea was not only to teach but also to encourage their growth from direction to *self*-direction, giving them more responsibility with each new job.
- I often tried to help clarify — rather than dictate — my children's choices for them. I found myself repeatedly using the phrase, "Would you rather do this . . . or that?" Obviously, I never tempted them to choose something wrong or foolish; the phrase was simply a tool to help them gain experience in making their own decisions. For example, I might ask, "Would you rather leave now for church and have time to talk to your friends, or leave a little later and go straight to your class?"

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## Phase Three: Counselor

- If you haven't yet experienced it, you will soon: The day dawns for every parent when he or she is no longer the driving influence in a child's life.
- The task of the loving parent is to encourage a child's growth from dependence to independence; it is especially important in this phase of parenthood. This is the phase — usually in the teen years — when a child reasonably can be expected to understand what is right, just and fair.
- Too many of us continue to parent our teenagers in much the same way we parented them as toddlers or grade-schoolers. When our kids begin to strain against the reins, like a horse that's eager to run, we pull back hard — as though it's wrong for them to seek independence. But that's exactly the purpose of the teen years. In fact, we should encourage that drive for independence and channel it in the right direction.
- The operative phrase during these years is, "That's a decision *you* can make." When my children came to me for permission, I would often quiz them about what decision they would make if I gave them that freedom. I encouraged them to take responsibility in decision making, and they responded. I offered suggestions and warned them about the potential consequences of poor decisions, but I tried to leave the decision up to them as often as possible.
- Of course, the risk I took was that my children would make poor choices, and sometimes they did. But little by little, they became capable of finding the right course.

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## Phase Four: Consultant

- No words adequately describe the jumble of emotions a parent experiences driving away from a child's freshman college dorm. It's frightening on so many levels. But it's less frightening if the parent has successfully navigated the first three phases.
- The task of parenting isn't done at this stage; it is no longer one of proactive involvement but of patient availability. Like Solomon, who told his son, "Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart" (Proverbs 27:11), the parent in this phase must hope, pray and wait.
- Each phase has its own challenges, but phase four can be the most difficult because it requires letting go. For nearly two decades, the parent has been the child's commander, coach or counselor, but trying to prolong any of those roles will invite resistance and perhaps even resentment.
- As I did in the other phases, I found a phrase that has helped my interactions with my children: "Let me know if I can help." It allowed me to affirm my availability while respecting my children's independence.
- You'll find that the phases of parenthood aren't entirely measurable or scientific. The phases overlap each other; one phase begins long before the previous phase passes completely. And different children will demand differing degrees of flexibility in moving from one phase to the next. But overall, I found that just a little attention to my current (and coming) phases produced a healthy perspective on my task as parent.

- <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/the-four-phases-of-parenthood/>

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# Gifts for Mother's Day

# A Family Commitment

If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve**: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”

Joshua 24:15

# A Family Provision

And my God will supply **all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

# A Family Mission

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of  
you but to **do justice**, to **love**  
**kindness**, and to **walk humbly with**  
**your God?** Micah 6:8

# A Family History

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy...

For I am mindful of the **sincere faith** within you, **which first dwelt** in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 2 Timothy 1:5

# A Family Legacy

I have no greater joy than this, to hear  
of **my children walking in the truth.**

3 John 1:4