

All in the Family – Raising Kids God’s Way – Deut 6:1-9

Last message of our series – All In The Family – Biblical Principles for Marriage and . . .

This morning – looking at Raising Kids God’s Way

Every parent would agree that kids can be source of great joy/pain; divisive or unifying

While lot of factors go into raising kids, one of most important is what we *teach* them

Problem is – most of us just shoot from the hip in that respect

Have little or no idea *why* we do what we do

Rarely get past the basics of putting food in their stomachs and driving them to soccer

We wouldn’t know what to change even if we wanted to

So we end up meandering through the maze of parenting, hoping they’ll turn out okay

That’s a recipe for delinquency

Top 10 Ways to Raise a Delinquent (see the Word document by that name)

God has a better way – **Deut 6:1-9**

Context – on the verge of the promised land; recounting all that God has done/given

Obviously, these truths apply to everyone – but the gist of the passage is that the

application of these truths must be passed on to our children

First clue to that is v2 – These are the commandments that you may fear the Lord

your God, *you and your son and your son’s son*

V7 makes it explicit by saying – *You shall teach them diligently to your children*

We must pass these truths on to our kids, and it starts by teaching them about God . . .

1. **Teach your kids about God (v4)**

Interesting to note that this verse is called the “shema” – it’s been recited in every Jewish

synagogue, every Sabbath day since before the time of Christ

Why? Because it’s foundational to faith in God

Teach your kids about God and start with the fact that . . .

The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (4)

There’s only one God – no others

Consisting of 3 persons – Father, Son, HS – in perfect unity

Teach your kids who God is and what he’s like (attributes)

Holy, loving, just, gracious, jealous, unchanging, all-knowing, all-powerful, present

everywhere, merciful – among others

Whatever you do, don’t let your child “find their own way”

That’s like blindfolding your 16 year old, putting them behind the wheel, and telling

them to find their way to school

Who knows where they’ll end up; or even if they’ll get there

Most often, letting your kid find their own way is a cop out because you don’t have a clue

where to start or what to do as a parent . . .

And you’re too lazy to find out and get involved in their life

Give your child direction; Start by teaching them about God

2. **Teach your kids to love God (v5)**

5 – *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Teach your kids to love God with everything in them

To make him the object of their hearts affection; To enjoy his presence

Dispense with the sterile, mental religion thing

Teach your kids to *love* God like they love you

Teach them to tell him they love him; Teach them to show him they love him in actions

One of the most tender expressions of love I’ve ever experienced came when one of our girls were real little

She was praying just before bedtime – went something like this . . .

“Thank you for God, thank you for Jesus, and (Who the other guy? The HS) thank you for the HS”

Precious expression of love for God – no pontificating

Teach them to love God in word and deed

3. **Teach your kids to fear God (v2)**

2 – These are the commandments I’m to teach you . . . *That you may fear the Lord*

Fear is a loaded word in Deuteronomy – it means to . . .

Be afraid – of God’s awesome power and wrath

Stand in awe – of God and his holiness, perfection, power

Respect and revere God with the utmost seriousness

I think we’ve lost a healthy fear of God

The Israelites had it – they saw his awesome power at Mt Sinai, and they were scared to death to go near the mountain lest they would die

Not us – We get mad at God; Shake our fist at him; Pout with him

Or we have a casual, cavalier attitude toward him – “Hey God! You’re a great friend”

“Hey God can you take a back seat for awhile while I make a mess of my life?”

“By the way, God – I really need a job, car, girlfriend, money. Can you help me out?”

It’s sickening, and scary – because we’re passing it on to our kids

Yes, God is good, merciful, loving

But teach your kids never to take that for granted like easy-come/easy-go rent-a-friend

Teach your kids to fear of God

4. **Teach your kids the Word of God (v6-9)**

7 – *You shall teach them diligently to your children*

As in – stop hoping they’ll “get it” through the experiences of life – they won’t

Stop relying on their school or church to compensate for your gross neglect

It’s not their responsibility – *You* shall teach them

School and church are to be *partners* with you, but not they’re not the ones primarily

responsible for teaching your kids the truths of God’s Word

You are; and God says you need to be *diligent* about it; which means . . .

- Have a plan (7a)

What’s your plan? – “I don’t have a plan”

Have them do what you do to learn the Word of God – “I don’t do anything”

Hello! That’s a problem – How can you teach them something you’re not learning?

If that’s where you are, here’s a 4 Step Plan to teach your kids the Word of God –

Step #1 – Start reading and studying the Word of God yourself

That’s the implication of v6 – you can’t teach what you don’t know

Start by reading/studying the Word yourself, so that it’s *on your heart*

So that it’s the constant guiding truth in your life; So that it defines you

Ever heard the expression – He’s a man of the Word; She’s a woman of the Word?

That should be your goal – to be a man or woman of the Word

Knowing the Word of God is not just for me, or really pious people –

It’s for everybody – it requires that we read it, study it, dwell on it, and memorize it

That’s one of the reasons for SG’s – every one of you should be in one

It’s the primary reason for DG’s – to know and understand the Word of God better

That’s why we have a Bible study for men; and a Bible study for women

There’s no excuse not to grow in your knowledge of the Word here at Harvest

Step #1 of your plan to teach your kids the Word of God involves you growing in knowledge of it yourself

Because you can’t teach what you don’t know

Can’t model what you’ve never done; Can’t lead where you haven’t gone

Step #2 – Encourage them to do the same

Get them a devotional book – if Jr High or High School, they have a list of good ones

If younger – buy them a Children’s Bible and read one passage a day with them

Hold them accountable – For about a year, we used a little chart for devotions

If you spent time with the Lord each day, reading your Bible and praying –

You got a star; (I even got a star); if got 10 stars in 2 weeks, you got a reward

If everybody did that for a month, there was a family reward

Did that for 6 months; it helped form good habits in our kids to be in the Word

Step#3 – Share what you’re learning

At least once a week, ask them what they’re learning – be prepared to start yourself

Over dinner, at bedtime, in the morning – find a time

Step #4 – Encourage them to memorize Scripture

To hide God’s word in their hearts – helps to prevent sin, encourage righteousness

We’re starting to encourage the same thing in our SG’s

As a parent, you’re going to need to lead by example – find a memory plan

Use the SG plan, CM plan, or choose your own verses – encourage them to memorize

Teach your kids the Word of God – according to a plan

- As you are going (7b)

When you sit, walk, lie down, and rise

Take advantage of every opportunity

Look for teaching moments

Bedtime; Errands; Dates; Events in their lives; Events in the world or community

Look for tender moments – friends being mean; bad day

Take advantage of meals

Sometimes we do “Hi-Lo”

Each of us shares one high point and one low point from our day

Teach your kids the Word of God – as you are going

- By all means possible (8-9)

Some Jewish families took this literally and wore little boxes called phylacteries on their wrists and foreheads, that contained these and other verses

In addition to that, they attached them to their doorposts, and touch or kiss them as they came and went

Whether this was meant to be literal or not is debatable (I don’t think it is because *them*

refers to all the commandments)

But one thing’s for sure – the truth of God’s word was always kept before them

The sky’s the limit here

Keep your Bible open on the kitchen counter to the passage you read that morning

Write out a verse on an index card and give it to your kids

Put it on their bathroom mirror or refrigerator; Use your imagination

By all means possible, teach them the word of God

5. Teach your kids to obey God (v1-3)

Moses is saying to the Israelites – I’m giving these instructions and truths to you . . .

*That you may **do** them* (1b); and fear the Lord by **keeping** all his statutes and his commandments (2b); I want you to *be careful to **do** them* (3a)

These are all phrases of obedience that we need to teach our kids

Teach them that obedience honors God

Just like their obedience honors you, their obedience honors God

Teach them to obey even when they don’t feel like it

Teach them that there are consequences when they don’t obey

Teach them to obey for the right reasons – because they love righteousness, not just because fear punishment

Teach them that obedience brings blessing

You must model this obedience thing

Their inclination to obey God will coincide with your inclination to obey God

If you’re serving the Lord with your time, talent, and treasure, they will too

If you’re guarding your heart and mind, they will too

If you rationalize sinful behavior, they will too

Their obedience to God, will correlate to your obedience God

6. Teach your kids the purposes of God (v3)

Read v3 – it’s not comprehensive, but several of God’s purposes are alluded to in this vs

To bless us – *go well with you* (3)

To extend our life – *that your days may be long* (2b)

To multiply his people – *that you may multiply greatly* (3b)

To fulfill his promises – *as the Lord has promised you* (3b)

Teach your kids God’s purpose . . .

To build his church as we Spread the Word

To defeat once and for all, the powers of hell

Of preparing a place for us in heaven

To glorify himself as Lord of all creation

Teach your kids the purposes of God

7. Teach your kids to stick with God (v2)

2b – I’m giving you these truths and commands so that you will keep them *all the days of your life*

The Christian life is not just about an initial conversion experience

That’s necessary and crucial – point in time where you repented to God of your sins; in faith gave him free reign in your life; committed to live for him forever – critical

But equally so is that you *persevere* in your faith and commitment – that you live for the Lord all the days of your life; that you stick with him

Perseverance in your faith is *evidence* that you were saved in the first place

Heb 10:23 – *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful* [to save us].

Teach your kids to stick with God

Pray for them in this respect

Don't let them be a quitter in little things; Model a steady faith, especially tough times

Encourage them to finish strong in everything they do

Prov 22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it*

Teach your kids . . .

About God; To love, fear, and obey God; The Word of God and the purposes of God

And when they're old, they won't depart from it – they'll stick with God

That's raising kids God's way