



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR BUILDING A STRONG FAMILY



LIFESTYLE DISCIPLESHIP IN THE HOME

*Joshua 24:14-16 - “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. **Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.** And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or **the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.** Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods.’”*

1. We are not going to serve the gods of our forefathers.
2. We are not going to serve the gods of our culture.
3. We are going to serve the Lord.

I. IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL EDUCATION/DISCIPLESHIP IN THE HOME

- Our desire in the discipleship of our children
 1. Know God—for them to know His love (1 John 4:16).
 2. Follow God—for them to put their trust in God.
 3. Glorify God—for them to show Him forth in every area of their lives. See His life in all of their lives and learning. No compartmentalization in their lives; this can lead to decisions that are based on their own desires and human wisdom.
 4. To embrace wisdom, knowledge, understanding.
 - ❑ Proverbs 4:7—“Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”
 - ❑ Proverbs 24:3, 4—“By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”
 - Wisdom - God’s desired perspective and choice
 - Understanding - God’s desired application
 - Knowledge - God’s desired truth

5. To have the fear of God in their lives.

- Fear of God is beginning of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”
- Fear of God is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
- Why discipleship lifestyle in the home?
 1. Wisdom - seek and understand.
 2. Word - central to all of life and learning.
 3. Worldview - Biblical learning, God’s perspective in world affairs.
 4. World changers - Children that impact the world for Christ and His Kingdom.
- Biblical command for discipleship in the home
Deut. 6:4-7 - *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You 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.”*

Goal for our children: To be led by the Spirit in the way of the Word of God to glorify God in their lives.

- What is education and how does it relate to discipleship?
Definition: The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends. All that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on our parents and guardians who neglect these duties. (*Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

God-Centered Education vs. Man-Centered Education

Our children have to catch a vision for what God has for them versus what the world, the flesh, and the devil have to offer them.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know God• Relationship• Serves God• All of life interrelated• Life is valuable• Love/Relationship• Wisdom• Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No god• Knowledge• Serves self, state• Fragmented• Life is not valued• Expertise/Professionalism• Wealth• Status
---	---

To renew our minds, we must think on such things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, that are virtuous and praiseworthy, as Philippians 4:8 instructs us, because as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). For us to be affected by transforming power, the renewing of the mind must touch more than just our mental thoughts, it must reach our hearts. The mind is renewed when the heart is touched and the power of the Holy Spirit is at work. The God-centered Judeo-Christian philosophy of education demonstrates this in its focus on relationships. Where a humanistic Greek philosophy of education focuses on knowledge - the teaching of the material to instruct the mind, a Biblical philosophy focuses on teaching the student and instructing his heart through relationship.

- Some of the “Foundational” aspects of Biblical principles education/discipleship are in realizing that what is produced and seen externally begins internally. This is seen in some of its goals:
 1. To be self-governed under God, which requires a heart submitted to God.
 2. To reason biblically, taking all of life and learning back to “what does the Scripture say” that applies to this.
 3. To think governmentally, determining not only who or what is vying for control, (while realizing that everything lies in the ultimate control of God Himself,) but also discerning what view of government is being promoted.
 4. To see life and learning from God’s perspective, that is in context of the “Big Picture.” This is wisdom.

II. WHAT DOES DISCIPLESHIP AS A LIFESTYLE IN OUR HOMES LOOK LIKE?

We are constantly teaching children to seek God in every subject of learning and life situation.

- **Distinct Christian Philosophy** - Our beliefs and values are derived from the teachings and principles of the Bible.
- **Distinct Christian Methodology** - We are learning and applying Biblical methodology to our lives.
- **Discipleship Lifestyle** - family oriented, we are always learning, not just out of a book; it is an every day, all day, and all year activity.

- We use interesting resources, stories, and relationships, and we are teaching providential history (Psalm 78).
- We are building desire to want to know the truth and principles from God’s perspective.
- The discipleship of our children includes:
 1. Modeling - you are an example of what you are teaching; it is faith focused; it is not based on fact or feeling.
 2. Discipleship - you follow me as I follow Christ.
1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
 3. We must be life long learners ourselves.
 4. We bring children along side us in our learning.
 5. *Mashal* - Hebrew term in teaching the heart.

The Hebrew term *Mashal* encompasses the core method of this philosophy, used much throughout God’s instruction to us in His Word. *Mashal* carries the original sense of “superiority in mental action,” coming from the primary root, meaning “to rule,” indicating the superiority of teaching by this method. It conveys teaching by likeness, through the use of maxims, comparative and figurative language-metaphors, parables, allegories, proverbs, and through poetry and song. *Mashal* doesn’t compare only within itself, but forces us to compare ourselves to the story, “compelling the hearer or reader to form a judgment on himself, his situation, or his conduct.”

Mark Hamby, of Lamplighter Publishing, has a term for these kinds of stories—Life Transforming Literature, stories that touch our hearts with Philippians 4:8 values, and transform our lives to the image of Christ. “As you probably already know, there is not an abundance of this type of literature being written today. Much on the shelves, even in the realm of ‘Christian books’ by ‘Christian’ authors is written to amuse the flesh and ‘tickle the ear,’ not to challenge the soul.” Also much of what is written to challenge the soul, is not written as *Mashal*, but in the more Greek method of reasoning with the mind.

- Sowing seeds, watering, bearing fruit—not perfect kids, or perfect families
- We are investing in our children education, and discipleship is kingdom building

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you see the need to integrate discipleship in the education of your children?
2. How do you lead your children in their discipleship?
3. Why do you think having a discipleship mindset in the home is important?

