

SHEPHERDING A CHILD'S HEART

Child Training and Discipleship—Part 2

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.**

CONNECTING WITH YOUR KIDS

Dad impacts his child's identity (how they feel about themselves) in a huge way when they are growing up. Dad needs to delight in their children's existence. Do not let your schedule take away from quality time with your kids. Greet them, talk to them, and find out how they are doing.

Go after their heart—understand their questions. Your children will have questions that will surface as they are growing up.

Raising Girls

The questions that girls ask—Am I loved? Am I Lovable? Am I Lovely?

Please, Dad, answer her questions.

Your answer...I delight in you! I will fight for you! I will pursue your heart.

What does she love? Go there ...with her.

Raising Boys

The questions that boys ask—Am I powerful? Do I have what it takes? Am I good enough?

How do they get these questions answered?

What did you want to hear—time?

What does he love to do? Go there...with him

Answer his question encourage his boyhood/manhood.

Let your son win.

Do not say no to your kids out of convenience to yourself.

Adventure together—Explore. Play together. Use your imagination. (Have special times, nights, activities)

Physical Affection (Language of Love) (Hugs, loving embraces)

For boys—wrestle, punches. Let your son win. (My son kisses me when I get home now by trading punches).

I. PROCESS OF FRUITFUL CHILD DISCIPLINE

- You are communicating for God to your child. You communicate His love and His desire in helping your children grow and mature. (Heb. 12:6). Your child feeling loved and bonded to you is the foundation for the child to receive correction from you.
- By being a safe person to your children when you discipline them, they will be able to process in their hearts and minds what you are trying to teach them. If you are angry, they will naturally resist you and your correction.
- Establish goals and limitations (Heb. 12:8).
 - Children need boundaries. It helps them feel secure.
 - Teach obedience through the word “NO!”
 - Teach reverence and what it means to honor others.
 - Set goals: personal disciplines, finances, friends, music, skills, character, and ministry.
- Clarify the consequences of disobedience and take the time to discipline. (Teach them cause and effect, sowing and reaping, Biblical principles)

First Offense:

1. Get alone with the child (I Thess. 2:11).
2. Talk with them eye-to-eye (for repentance) (Ezra 9:3).
3. Clarify instruction (Was it understood? I don't know how, I can't, or I won't!)
4. Appeal to their conscience by asking them questions.
5. Give only one warning.
6. Be prepared to follow through on discipline.

Second Offense:

1. Act “in the day you hear of it” (Num. 30:5).
2. Bind Satan before confrontation (Mark 3:27).
3. Get alone for correction and talk with them eye to eye. If possible lovingly touch them.
4. Establish personal responsibility: “What did you do that was wrong?” (I John 1:9).
5. Appeal to their conscience: “Do you feel that what you did is what God wants you to do?” (Rom. 2:15).
6. Teach them the principle of God's word: “Do you understand why your behavior was wrong?”
7. Share with them their need for Christ and His grace to help them obey.
8. Reflect grief—wait for repentance.
9. Associate correction with love (Heb. 12:6).
10. You should be in control when you administer the rod.
Goal: Win their will without breaking their spirit (Heb. 12:15).

11. Causes of a broken spirit—anger, inconsistency, or injustice by parents.
“Meekness—my energy under God’s control”
12. Purpose of crying—clear conscience. Rod is a symbol of authority.
13. Encourage them to pray and clear their conscience (Eph. 4:28).
14. Help lead them in prayer.
15. Help them in how to bring reconciliation with others.
16. Give a lot of comfort after repentance (words, affection, understanding) same parent that administered the discipline (Heb. 12:11).

II. HELPING YOUR CHILDREN TO BE SELF-GOVERNING

The principle of self government is **“God ruling from the heart of the individual.”**

Self government is not having an independent spirit; it is applying biblical principles in their decisions and being led by God’s Spirit.

The battle with teenagers is what is good for me.

- Help your children to communicate their needs by allowing them to feel comfortable sharing what they think and feel about things and life. Help them process how they think and feel biblically.
- Help them evaluate the consequences of their behavior and learn what satisfies. They need to understand what satisfies themselves and honors God. If they do not learn this, they will be consumed with unhealthy things in a desperate search for satisfaction.
- Encourage them to do difficult tasks they do not feel like doing. If they fail to learn this, they will be undependable, unproductive, and consumed with comfort.
- Provide opportunities and tools to develop their unique talents and interests. This helps them develop personal resources and talents. If they fail to develop this, they will be filled with unproductive activities, despite God-given gifts.
- Help them to know themselves, their style, likes and dislikes, their own gifting, interests.
- Guide them in discovering the unique characteristics of their new heart in Christ. If they fail to develop their true identity it is easy to conform to outside influences that misshape identity.
- Educate your children regarding God’s redemption plan through history (Israel, NT Church, Reformation, America, your own family). If they feel disconnected from history, they will be unable to protect themselves from family and cultural lies or the battle between good and evil.

- Train them in Biblical worldview vs. Humanistic philosophies.
- Provide opportunities to participate in life giving group activities. This helps them form a group identity. It also helps them learn how to function in a group setting.
- Encourage them in difficult times (As teenagers they need to remain hopeful and have a vision for something bigger than themselves). Without this it becomes easy for them to conform to peer pressure.
- Provide a positive environment and activities where life-giving peers can bond. (Projects and activities that build into life purpose, interests and gifting are priority)
- Teach them how their behavior impacts others, including protecting others from self. If they do not learn this they can become controlling, harmful, blaming and unprotective of others.
- Provide opportunities for them to be involved in important community tasks (sacrificially serving others & evangelism).
- Teach them the importance of specific, biblical gender roles.

PERSONAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1. How do you enter into your children's world?
2. Are you answering your children's questions about who they are as they are becoming young men and women?
3. How is your child responding to discipline?
4. Why is teaching our children to be self-governing important?