

The Kind of Parents

(or Step-Parent, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent, Neighbor, Role Model, Friend)

Our Kids Need

June 25, 2006

These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them... Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 1 (144)

- How well do I know & understand the Bible?
- How much do I REALLY seek to base my life and my life choices on the Bible?
- Am I a student of the Bible, seeking to grow more and more in my understanding of it?
- When an issue or need comes up in my life, how soon until I seek to get God's perspective on it?
- Start taking steps now to get your spiritual life in order!

...You and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 2 (144)

- To fear = to revere, to regard with admiration and deep respect
- *The fear of God is a great awareness of His presence & power that produces in me a sense of awe and calls forth from me honor, respect and reverence (feargod.net)*
- To know God is to fear God!
- If I am not a student of the Bible, I will not know God. If I do not know God I will not fear God.
- As a parent, how much am I actually in awe of God & his power?
- My kids will not fear God any more than I do!
- ***God will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. Isaiah chapter 40 verse 11 (547)***

What the "fear of God" looks like in parenting...

- Talk to your kids openly about what God is teaching you.
- Be open with your kids that you need & ask for God's help in life.
- When your kids ask you for permission to do things, let them know you need time to pray and ask God for wisdom & guidance.

Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you....

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 3 (144)

- "Listen" - Pay attention!!
- God promises peace & joy thru the storms of life. This verse doesn't mean I will avoid the storms...it means I will have peace & joy thru the storms
- And God promises to watch over not only my life, but the lives of my kids. God loves to honor obedience, so give him every reason to bless you and your kids because of YOUR obedience as a parent!

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Love the Lord God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 4 & 5 (144)

- "Listen" - Pay attention!
- God will not share the #1 place in your life with anyone or anything else
- To know God is to love God! The more I get to know God, the more I will love him.

(over)

You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 6 (144)

- No phonies allowed! I'm a fool to pretend to be something I'm not...kids see right thru this!
- God (and our kids!) want us to be real, admit our weaknesses but work thru them with God's help
- God is not asking for perfection here, he's asking for 100% effort
- God knows that effective parents are authentic & transparent!
- God knew that no parent could do this on his/her own and would have to lean on others around them in the church...and this is God's plan
- How connected am I to what's going on at Bethel? How connected are my kids?
- Kids are tired of seeing parents in church on Sunday then seeing nothing else during the week!

Repeat them again & again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 7 (144)

- God-honoring parents HAVE TO "do life" with their kids! That's the only way we can repeat God's principles to our kids "again & again!"
- Parents have to be present in their kids' world, their kids' life!
- God is asking parents to interact with their kids about God, his plan for life & the Bible
- Use the ordinary stuff of life to teach & reinforce God's principles
- This means that the parent has to MODEL this behavior to the kids

Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. *Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 8 & 9 (144)*

- God wants me to surround myself with the Bible & biblical principles
- Hands = the Bible should guide all I do
- Forehead = the Bible should guide my thoughts
- Doorposts of house = the Bible should guide everything that comes into my house (TV, radio, talk radio, internet, music, books, magazines, friends)
- God knows that the best parents are those that lovingly establish & enforce godly boundaries in the lives of their kids

You must diligently obey the commands of the Lord your God - all the laws & decrees he has given you.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 17 (145)

- Diligently = to guard, protect, attend to with great attention
- ALL the laws - every single one, everything! God knows when we dismiss the "little" ones, the "big" ones aren't far behind!

Notice that in these verses, God takes LOTS & LOTS of time and effort to talk about our hearts & minds & MENTIONS NOTHING of what we're supposed to look like or dress like

- Many parents are more preoccupied with their kid's externals (hair, dress, makeup, piercings, grades, etc.). God knows the internal stuff (my heart, mind & attitude) will ultimately shape the external!
- Encourage & praise the positive qualities that God has given each of your kids!
- STOP harping on what they don't have, START praising what is already there!

Do what is right & good in the Lord's sight, so all will go well with you.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 verse 18 (145)