

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

PASTOR STEVE'S Wednesday Devotional 7-10-19

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

I was recently asked what do we need to teach our children before they leave home. In reflection on my own past parenting, my wife and I have endeavored to teach our sons a number of key biblical life principles in preparation for their life as adult believers. Our children are like video cameras that run all the time and they learn from what they see, hear and feel from the home they are raised in. There are many things we need to teach our children but here is a list of what we considered foundational and significant:

1. The reliability and integrity of God's Word: we can always trust the Bible to give us correct and righteous guidance on how to live life.
2. Worship: our number one priority is to maintain a close personal relationship with Jesus.
3. Salvation: we need to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord with assurance of eternal life
4. Sharing our faith: it is important to share our faith in all the different ways possible, verbally, non-verbally, by lifestyle, and service.
5. Love, forgiveness and acceptance: learn to know of God's forgiveness and how to be forgiving to others. Learn to love unconditionally and receive unconditional love. You are accepted and to accept others always being kind and respectful.
6. Identity and purpose: our identity is in Jesus. We taught our children how to understand and find their identity and purpose in a walk and life with the Lord.
7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives and how the gifts of the Spirit functions in them.
8. Prayer: how to pray and the importance of daily, regular communications with the Lord Jesus.
9. Trust God always: that we can trust God for everything and anything in life.
10. Sowing and reaping (consequences): understand the principle of sowing and reaping
11. Stewardship and giving: the principles of handling our time, talents and finances.
12. Excellence: to do your best for the Lord. It is not about being the best but giving our best.
13. Community: we taught them the importance of being a part of our family and the family of God and how each of us function and live in a family.

14. Commitment and honor: when we give our word, we are good for our word. We taught our children the value of loyalty and honor to people and our commitments.

15. Responsibility and accountability: we are responsible and accountable to God and others for our actions. We are to guide our children to transfer their commitment, responsibility and accountability from us as parents to Jesus as Lord.

Raising our kids together!

Pastor Steve