



WIN AT HOME & SUCCEED IN LIFE

Week 4: Raising Spiritual Champions

Sermon Notes

Judges 2:10 CSB

¹⁰ That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the Lord or the works he had done for Israel.

George Barna group's research in Raising Spiritual Champions:

- Only 1% of preteen children possess a biblical worldview.
- Only 36% of newly minted teens believe that God exists and is the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe.
- Close to half of these teens are uncertain or indifferent about the existence of God.

- 61% believe Jesus Christ sinned while He was on Earth or consider the possibility.
- Only 45% believe that God created the universe.
- Only 4% of Gen Z have a biblical worldview, representing 26-30% of the world's nearly 2 billion people.

Generation Z: born between the mid-to-late 1990s and the early 2010s. 10-29 years old.

Judges 2:10:

1. Historical Background:

- Period of the Judges: between the death of Joshua and the establishment of the monarchy in Israel.

Joshua 24:31

Israel worshiped the Lord throughout Joshua's lifetime and during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived Joshua and who had experienced all the works the Lord had done for Israel.

2. The Passing of Joshua's Generation:

- Faithful Generation.
- Failure to Teach.

3. A New Generation:

- Ignorance of the Lord.

- Consequences: disobedience, idolatry, and apostasy.

Parents have to understand their key role so kids can be reared to know, love, and serve God.

Psalm 127:4

- Hebrew: "כְּחֵצִים בְּיַד־גִּבּוֹר כֵּן בְּנֵי הַנְּעוּרִים" (Keḥiṣṣîm beyad-gibbôr kên benê hanne'ûrîm)
- **"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth."**

Hebrew Meaning and Practical Implications

1. Arrows (חֵצִים - khetsim):

- **tools of precision and purpose.**
- Implication: Children must be nurtured, guided, and directed purposefully.
- A person's worldview starts developing in the second year of life (from 15 to 18 months) and is largely in place by the age of 13.

2. Hand of a Warrior (בְּיַד־גִּבּוֹר - beyad-gibbôr):

- **A warrior's hand implies strength, skill, and control.**

- Implication: Parents must exercise strength, skill, and control in training their children.

Cultural Changes Affecting Kids Spiritually:

1. Social Media Influence.
2. Moral Relativism.
3. Decline in Religious Participation.
4. Mental Health Issues.
5. Changing Family Dynamics.
6. Educational Shifts.
7. Political and Social Divisions.

Key Takeaways:

1. Understand the Urgency.
 - Current Crisis: 1% of preteens and 4% of Gen Z have a biblical worldview.
 - Cultural threats exist.
2. Take Responsibility.
 - **Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

Statistic Information Resource:

Book: Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child's Heart, Mind and Soul (Arizona Christian University Press, 2023) By George Barna

- 2 years of research from 7 original research studies related to the ability to intentionally and strategically raise spiritual champions among the nation's children.
- 2021
- (https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AWVI-2021-22-Methodology-Brief_Digital.pdf)
- US Adults 18 years +
- National Sample of 2,000 adults (1,000 interviews completed with a nationwide random sample of adults via telephone, plus another 1,000 adults who completed interviews online through the use of a national panel of adults)
- Survey
- Surveys conducted annually in January.