



WEEK 2 – “First Things First”

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced our new series with a brief look at how God has chosen to call us... “*My little children.*” In the OT, we learned of the serious consequences of sin on the entire family including the little children. In the NT, we saw Jesus Christ’s desire for parents to bring their children to Him...remember how the disciples were **CONFUSED** about that one! We ended with God’s comparison of Christians to little children. Tonight, we begin with the focus of Biblical Child Training and the most important things. What is the **GOAL** of child training? What does parenting success look like to God? Why do so many kids grow up to rebel against God and His truth? As God’s little children, all Christians will benefit from this study. Amen.

1. True Success

- ✓ The word “*success*” is only found 1 time in the holy Bible (KJV) – **Joshua 1:8**

NOTE According to the word of God, true success is only found after a person does not let the word of God out of his mouth and meditates day and night on the word of God so that he will obey ALL that is written in the word of God. Amen.

- ❖ The key word after these statements is **THEN** ...

- 1) **Then** thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and
- 2) **Then** thou shalt have good success.

- ✓ The Bible gives a key for this most important task of *building* up a **FAMILY**.

Psalm 127:1 – *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in VAIN that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in VAIN.*

OBSERVATIONS:

KEY #1: You must personally know / walk with Christ; He is the **FOUNDATION**. **1 Cor 3:11**

KEY #2: You must lead your children by **EXAMPLE** (24 x 7 x 365). **Jn 13:15; 1 Cor 11:1**

TRUTH: *The word of God must be the authority and guide for building up a family.*

- ✓ The Bible also gives a promise for training up children God's **WAY**.

Psalm 22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go:
and WHEN HE IS OLD, he will not depart from it.*

OBSERVATIONS:

TRUTH: There must be a way to train up children that God can use for His glory.

2. The Goal

- ✓ The goal of parenting is **NOT** ...
 - To get your kids under **CONTROL**...
 - To make your kids **POLITE** and respectful...
 - To cause your kids to conduct themselves in a morally **ACCEPTABLE** manner...
 - To make your kids **OBEDIENT**...
 - To give parents something to be proud of...

Consider these verses:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Micah 6:8

- ❖ Our goals for our children should be that they **LOVE** God with everything in them and that they put Him **FIRST** in their lives. We should want them to be used of God to make a difference in the world for Christ! If we raise children like that, everything else will fall into place. Amen.

The goal of parenting is to see your child **SAVED** from sin and its eternal consequences and then to live a life of loving, faithful **OBEDIENCE** to the Lord.

3. Personal Application

- ✓ How should this FIRST THINGS FIRST principle be incorporated into your **LIFE**?
- ✓ How should this FIRST THINGS FIRST principle be incorporated into *Discipleship*?
- ✓ What are you going to do today to **CHANGE** for God's glory? For your family?