



The Time Is Now - Parent Seminar

STRATEGIES FOR PASSING ON THE FAITH

# Generation TO Generation

# DINNER QUESTIONS



1. Share about your family – kids, grandkids, etc. (ages, school, favorite activities)
2. Who were the 3 most influential people in helping to establish the faith that you have today?
3. Your favorite family meal and why?



# HANDING DOWN THE FAITH



Based on research done in 2014-15.

Religious families from different faith traditions, backgrounds and locations around the United States.



# KEY SOCIOLOGICAL FINDINGSS

- The Importance of Parents
- Parenting Styles
- Parents Religiosity
- Verbally Communicating the Faith
- The Role of the Church



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS

“Yet all research in the United States today shows clearly that parents are by far the most important factor influencing their children’s religion, not only as youth but also after they leave home.”

-HDTF p. 69



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS

Parents define for their children the role that religious faith and practice ought to play in life, whether important or not... Parents set a “glass ceiling” of religious commitment above which their children rarely rise. Parental religious investment and involvement is in almost all cases the necessary and even sometimes sufficient condition for children’s religious investment and involvement.

-HDTF p. 69



## THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS

Yet all empirical data tell us that, for intergenerational religious transmission today, the key agents are parents, not clergy or other religious professionals. The key location is the home, not religious congregations. And the key mechanisms of socialization are the formation of ordinary life practices and identities, not programs, preaching, or formal rites of passage.

-HDTF p. 70

# PARENTING STYLES

## 4 Primary Parenting Styles



- Authoritarian
- Authoritative
- Permissive
- Uninvolved





# PARENTING STYLES

## 4 Primary Parenting Styles

Authoritarian – High Standards – Low Warmth – One Way  
Communication

- Authoritative – High Standards – High Warmth – High Communication
- Permissive – Low Standards – High Warmth – Conflict Avoidant
- Uninvolved – Low Standards – Low Warmth - Disengaged



## AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING

“They found that parents who have warm and kind relationships with their children were more likely than others to pass on their religion and transmit similar levels of religious belief. He also found that parents who engaged in religious activities with their children when they were young were more likely to have adult children who were similarly religious.”

-HDTF p. 45

# PARENTS RELIGIOSITY



“The more important religion is to parents and the more parents attend religious services, the more important religion becomes for their children and the more their children attend religious services, even years after they no longer live with their parents.”

-HDTF p. 38



## VERBALLY COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

“Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.

- St. Francis of Assisi

“Preach the Gospel at all times. It’s necessary to use words.

-Chris



## VERBALLY COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

“By contrast, when parents talk naturally and substantively about religion and its place in life throughout the week, that effectively indicates to children that, in the mix of life’s many priorities and values, this stuff matters a lot. And that raises the stakes for children’s decisions about their own future religious commitments.”

-HDTF p. 75



## VERBALLY COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

Parents not talking about religion other than during scheduled “religious times” reinforces that compartmentalization. But when parents discuss religion with children during the week, it decompartmentalizes and desegregates religion. And the more naturally and regularly religion is talked about, the more normally it becomes a significant part of the world of the conversation participants.

-HDTF p. 75

# THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



“The last factor parents said was particularly important about congregations was “community.” Parents described the importance of the congregational community as being different from school and other extracurricular activities.”

-HDTF p. 213



## THE FAMILY OF GOD

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

- John 1:12–13



# THE FAMILY OF GOD



<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...

- Ephesians 2:19



## PASSING DOWN THE FAITH

**6** These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Deuteronomy 6:1–3



## PASSING DOWN THE FAITH

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Everythingness)

Deuteronomy 6:4–5



## PASSING DOWN THE FAITH

<sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

Mark 12:29–30

# PASSING DOWN THE FAITH



<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Deuteronomy 6:6

# PASSING DOWN THE FAITH



<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7

# PASSING DOWN THE FAITH



<sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9



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