

Arrows Family Devotional Guide: Week Two

Release

Family Memory Verse for the Week

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it

-Proverbs 22:6

Devotional

Players win games, coaches lose them. Coaches seem to get the rough end of the stick in the old sports adage. The coach did not miss that shot, foul that player, or make a bad pass. The coach does not play in the game, but they are responsible for creating the culture around the team, for developing practices that enable players to flourish, and making decisions during the game to put their team in the best chance to succeed. How coaches handle their responsibilities before the game will impact the players ability to maximize their talent and enjoyment of the game. At some point though, the players must go out and play the game. Players go out and win the game, but coaches lose the game.

How we train up our children will in many ways shape the choices they make in the future. The influence of parents is seen in Proverbs 22:6, where parents are instructed to *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it*. How parents set the culture of the family, determine what activities to engage inside and outside the house, and handle decisions will greatly shape the future of the child. Children will make their own decisions, but those decisions will in many ways be shaped by the way their parents raised them. The way you train your child directs their future decisions. Are you training them up to follow after God in the way they should go, or are you training them to walk a different path?

One of the ways that coaches try to develop their team culture is by creating a mission statement. The mission statement drives the attitude of the team. It helps clarify how to play and what it looks like to succeed for the players. You can see buzz words like hustle, integrity, grit included. As a parent, you can help release your child well by creating a family mission statement. The mission statement is a way to lay out your family's purpose, goals and standards. Write this out, put it on the fridge or somewhere you can look over it. You can also have a family memory verse that you will cling to as a family and help unite your family around scripture. Having a family mission statement can anchor your child's decision making now and in the future as well as be the driving force behind your child's future choices. You will eventually have to release your children; a mission statement can help you train up your child in the way they should go so when you release your child they will continue to fly towards the target of Jesus.

Family Activities

Babies

Take time to pray for protection over your child. Ask the Lord to guide you and as you raise your child.

Remember Proverbs 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it*

Sing: This little light of mine

Preschool

Activities:

This will take some prep work. Gather a few toys around the house that can be sorted. (plastic animals, legos, dolls, dinosaurs) Put these items in a tupperware container or a few containers and fill it up with water over the toys. Then place these containers in the freezer. The next day or a few days later take them out so your child or children can start to try to get the items out. First, ask the kids how they will get the toys out of the ice, allow them to brainstorm with you. Let them try a few different ways! You can put warm water (you can also add food dye in the water) in cups, spray bottles, medicine droppers, anything you have around the house and show them how the warm water helps melt the ice. Let them sort the items by color, by matching animals, whatever works best with the items you have. Talk to your kids about how you help sort things in their life. Tell them you help them make good choices like when you go to bed, what foods to eat or what is safe to play with.

Or

Gather the blocks or legos that you have around the house. You and your child build a large city, but make sure to build a wall around it. Include a gate in the wall. Spend time with your children as you build and make it a family activity. While you are building the wall, talk to your kids about how a wall can protect a city. Then talk about ways you help protect your family or what your family mission statement is.

Early Elementary

Activities:

Gather around a table and talk about a family mission statement. This mission statement is a way to lay out your family's purpose, goals and standards. Write this out, put it on the fridge or somewhere you can look over it. You can also have a family memory verse that you will cling to as a family and help unite your family around scripture.

Gather the blocks, legos, or use minecraft and you and your child build a large city, but make sure to build a wall around it. Make sure to put a gate in your wall so you can talk about letting things in and out of your city. Spend time with your children as you build and make it a family activity. While you are building the wall, talk to your kids about how a wall can protect a city. Then talk about ways you help protect your family or what your family mission statement is.

Youth

Activity:

Gather around a table and talk about a family mission statement. Ask your youth if they had to write out your family's current mission statement what would it be? How does that mission statement compare to what you actually desire for it to be? Have them participate in crafting your family's mission statement. The mission statement is a way to lay out your family's purpose, goals and standards. Write this out, put it on the fridge or somewhere you can look over it. You can also have a family memory verse that you will cling to as a family and help unite your family around scripture.

Discussion:

-If your youth participate in any activity that requires preparation (sports, band, choir, theatre, etc.), ask for their feedback on the importance of practice. (What does practice prepare us for? What is their favorite part of practice, etc.) You can begin to transition to asking them about what they think your parenting is preparing them for. How is your parenting shaping who the youth are becoming. From there, you can begin to discuss your hopes and goals with your youth about how you want them to become devoted followers of Jesus.

Adults

-If you are married, talk with your spouse about what you think your family's mission statement should be. What passages of scripture really impact you and direct your life together? The mission statement is a way to lay out your family's purpose, goals and standards. Write this out, put it on the fridge or somewhere you can look over it. You can also have a family memory verse that you will cling to as a family and help unite your family around scripture. What activities can you do together to help you live out your family's mission statement?

-If you are single, do the above activity by yourself and take it to people who you trust for their feedback or input.