



Go for God!

# **"GOD'S PLAN FOR GREAT KEIKI'S (KIDS)"**

## **Ephesians 6:1-4**

### **> (v1) CHILDREN OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD!**

(v1) Children are to **OBEY** their parents **IN THE LORD** - the Greek word for "**OBEY**" is *hupakouo*, meaning to *hear under* (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively, by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority.

- It's been said, "Children are like wet cement, whatever impression you put on them they will become." Obedience in the Lord comes from the parental process of discipleship. To begin with parents are given two commandments to personally obey and teach their children turn to Matthew 22:35-40.

- Question: As a parent are you a lawyer with the cold hard stone of the Law or a loving, nurturing parent in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- When we look at the word "**OBEY**" it says that children are to listen attentively. Barking orders does not create the atmosphere to listen attentively, but rather parental **OBSERVATION, EVALUATION, and COMMUNICATION** develops the **IMAGE OF GOD** in our children.

### **> GOD'S IMAGE has three indelible stamps:**

(1) **LOVE** (for **GOD and ONE ANOTHER**, that is sharing and caring);

(2) **LIFE** (ABUNDANT - that is enjoyable, positive, edifying, encouraging);

(3) **LIGHT** (RIGHTEOUSNESS - teaching our children to do the right things through simple consistent loving instructions (age appropriate) and developing a responsible lifestyle).

### **> In contrast we see the WORLD'S IMAGE:**

- 2 Timothy 3:1-6 - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!* (This image has been developed in our society through godless education, music, movies, television, internet, etc.)

- We are told in 1 Corinthians 15:33-34 - *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

> **(v2-3) CHILDREN HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER!**

(v2) The word HONOR in Greek is *timao* - meaning to prize, fix a valuation upon, to revere. If we as parents live an honorable life by honoring God above all else, personally (devotions, Bible study, prayer) and corporately (fellowship with believers, church attendance and involvement) with our children, then HONOR will be exemplified, then applied toward God and parents.

(v3) Children that HONOR their parents are given two promises:

(1) *"that it may be WELL with you"* - Honoring children will have a good and blessed life!

(2) *"and you may live a LONG LIFE on the earth"* - It means what says and says what it means.

> **(v4) FATHERS BRING THEM UP IN THE TRAINING AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD!**

(v4) Here we find that parental leadership begins with the FATHERS:

- TRAINING is *paideia* (Gk.) - *tutorage, education, disciplinary correction.*

whereas,

- ADMONITION is *nouthesia* (Gk.) - *calling attention to, a mild rebuke or warning.*

- **BEWARE FATHERS:** *"Do not provoke you children to wrath"* -

Fathers do not be disrespectful to your children; don't be heavy handed (an overt disciplinarian); don't be critical and negative; don't be neglectful. Once again beware, *"You will reap what you sow"* provoking them to wrath.

- Our Father knows best for us fathers, let us go back to the future and discover five proven parenting skills from Deuteronomy Chapter 6:

> **SKILL #1 - DISCIPLESHIP (v1-5)**

(v1) The LORD wants to teach us. If God is the teacher, then we must be the students. He will teach us His: Statutes - *"thou shalt & thou shalt not"* & Judgments - *case laws are phrased "If a man"* & we are to observe them in the land.

(v2) We are to fear the LORD and to keep His commandments. This is to be passed on from generation to generation. (Notice: *You and your son and your grandson*.)

(v3) Hear and be careful to observe. Do you want your life and house to be flowing with milk and honey? Look at Joshua's example in Joshua 24:14-19 - "*Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."*

(v4) A good disciple will learn sound biblical doctrine. Sound doctrine is defined through a three-fold test:

- (1) *Did Jesus teach it or practice it in the four gospels.*
- (2) *Is it practiced or taught in the Book of Acts.*
- (3) *Do we have in instructions in the Epistles.*

(v5) Jesus said in John 8:31-32- "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

John 15:7-8- *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

### > SKILL #2 - TEACHING (v6-9)

(v6) The Word of God needs to be in our heart (Psalm 19:7-11).

(v7) We must teach our children God's Word diligently in explanation, conversation, & examination (*when we sit down, walk by the way, lie down and rise up*).

(v8) *You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*



- *What's in the Boxes?*

The Torah mentions the mitzvah of tefillin four separate times. Each of these texts is inscribed on parchment and placed into the tefillin. These passages discuss the unity of Gd. They describe the miracles Gd performed for us when He took us out of Egypt, and how Gd alone has the power and dominion to do whatever He wants in the physical and spiritual worlds. In other words, these verses cover the fundamentals of our faith.

- These texts are:

1–2. *Kadesh* (Exodus 13:1–10) and *Vehayah ki yeviacha* (Exodus 13:11–16): These describe the duty of the Jewish people to always remember the redemption from Egyptian bondage, and the obligation of every Jew to educate his children about this and about Gd's commandments.

3. *Shema* (Deut. 6:4–9): Pronounces the unity of the one Gd, and commands us to love and fear Him.

4. *Vehayah* (Deut. 11:13–21): Focuses on Gd's assurance to us of reward that will follow our observance of the Torah's mitzvahs.

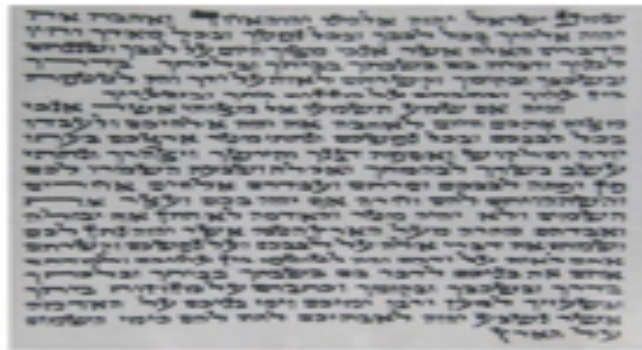
- Sidenote: One box is placed above the prefrontal cortex is where you make decisions to take action on a thought. The prefrontal cortex handles your behavior! Frontal lobe is the part of the brain that is last to reach maturity. Reasoning and moral judgment is carried out by the frontal lobe. Every human mind is as unique as a fingerprint. Every thought is uniquely processed in each different human brain. The thought comes into the frontal lobe and then goes through the unique process of order and duration in the different parts of the brain. The frontal lobe determines how

to interpret the thought according to the training the frontal lobe has been taught. The thought "goes around" through the brain and is then "bound" by the frontal lobe into what it believes the thought to be. **Frontlet** according to Strong's #2903 is; *towphaphah*, from an unused root meaning **to go around or bind.**

**Bind His Word on your hand in service for one another, keeping your mind stayed upon God. Having a vision for His Kingdom (Mt. 6:33).**

**(v9) Write them on the doorposts and gates of our house.**

Many Jewish homes and businesses will have a **me-zu-zah** which is a small piece of parchment inscribed with the biblical passages **Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21** and marked with the word **Shaddai**, a name of the **Almighty**, that is rolled up in a container and affixed by many Jewish households to their door frames in conformity with Jewish law and as a sign of their faith.



***- Deuteronomy 11:13-21 - 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.' Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the Lord's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you. "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by***

*the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.*

- Our home is a light to the community. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

> **SKILL #3 - CONSISTENCY (v10-12)**

- *"Beware lest you forget the LORD!"* - Insight from James 3:13-18- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* Let us not neglect our marriage and children.

> **SKILL #4 - LEARNING RIGHT FROM WRONG (v13-19)**

- *Notice the "shall" & the "shall not":*

(v13) *You shall fear the Lord thy God and serve Him.*

(v14) *You shall not go after other gods.*

(v16) *You shall not tempt the Lord* (Massah - Ex. 17:7; saying that God is not with them, a place of contention.)

(v17) *You shall diligently keep His commandments, His testimonies, and His statutes.*

(v18) *You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD.*

- When it comes to disciplining our children's disobedience we must:

(1) **Respect their personhood**, do not demean them; call them names.

(2) **Respond consistently**- Observe the rules of engagement as explained by Chuck Swindoll:

#1- *Make sure the rules are known beforehand.*

#2- *Discipline privately.*

#3- *Explain the violation and its consequences.*

#4- *Administer the rod soundly.*

#5- *Tenderly hold your child after the spanking.*

#6- *Assure your child of your love and concern. (Pray with the child.)*

**(3) Develop responsible behavior (age appropriate).**

**> SKILL #5 - SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY (past, present & future)  
(v20-25)**

**(v20) Observe the question of our children, "What is the meaning of the testimonies, statutes & judgments?"**

**(v21-23) *The testimony of Jesus is our testimony!***

**(v24) *Follow His word (statutes) for our good and for life!***

**(v25) *Judgment - it will be righteousness for us!***

**Jesus said in Mark 10:14-16 - "*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.*" And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.**