

## MAKE DISCIPLES – PARENTING

The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. 8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. 9 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. 11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. **Judges 2:7-12**

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

**1 Samuel 8:4-5**

### GOD IS PERFECT PARENT

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **1 John 3:1**

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:4**

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **Eph.6:4**

### THE ABC OF PARENTING

#### 1. GIVE THEM YOUR ATTENTION

...Jehiel son of Hakmoni took care of the king's sons **1 Chronicles 27:32**

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

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” **John 11:41-42**

#### 2. HELP THEM IN BATTLE

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **Hebrews 12:7-11**

#### 3. MODEL TRUE COMMITMENT

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children. **Ephesians 5:1**  
Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. **Proverbs 1:8**

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. **3 John 4**

#### LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What distractions should we control to ensure we are fully present with our children and family?
2. How can we support our young people in the battles they face?
3. What are the family rhythms we must model in our homes and in our church to help raise a generation that follows Jesus wholeheartedly?
4. Pray for every family and household for God's grace to help us heal wounds and reflect Jesus to each other.