

Teach God's Mighty Deeds to Your Children

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 11:1-7, 16-21

Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. ²Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; ³ the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; ⁴ what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them. ⁵ It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place, ⁶ and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them. ⁷ But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done. [...]

¹⁶ Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. ¹⁷ Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you. ¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

1.) Moses spoke these words as the second generation of Israelites was about to enter the Promised Land. What reasons did the Israelites have to love and fear the LORD (v. 1-7)? What reasons do we have to do the same?

2.) While the promised land is a good and fertile area, what unique characteristics of its topography and climate make it uniquely situated for teaching reliance on the LORD (v. 16-17)?



3.) What were the gods of the Canaanites? What were they focused on?

4.) The daily family life of believers should be filled with God's Word and instruction. What spiritual and eternal benefits result?

5.) How can we practically incorporate the Word into family life?

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

1.) This event took place while Jesus was on his final trip to Jerusalem for the Passover. How might the disciples have justified their actions? What reasons do people give today for keeping their children from the Lord and his Word?

2.) The truth is that children are incredibly dear to Jesus. In what ways are children exemplary members of his kingdom?

Epistle Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ... ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1.) How were Timothy and his family circumstances a testimony to the intergenerational Spirit-worked transfer of faith via God's Word and the power of example? Share some influential examples of faith lived from your life and experience.

2.) How do the God-breathed Scriptures equip us as 'persons of God' in the following...

- Teaching (i.e. the instruction of a teacher to a learner)? (think of all the fields of learning)

- Rebuking (i.e. expressing strong disapproval)?

- Correcting (i.e. to straighten something out, revise)?

- Training (i.e. as if nurturing a child) in righteousness? (Is this God's righteousness, the righteousness he gives by faith, or the righteousness that shows itself in the believer's godly life?)