

Spiritual Growing Centers...
Deut. 6:5-9

Introduction:

1. "The family is both the fundamental unit of society as well as the root of culture. It ... is a perpetual source of encouragement, advocacy, assurance, and emotional refueling that empowers a child to venture with confidence into the greater world and to become all that he can be." MARIANNE E. NEIFERT, Dr. Mom's Parenting Guide
2. This quote is very noteworthy and challenging to parents who have decided to take on the responsibility of raising their children
3. One thing many think is the role of school teachers, bible class teachers, preachers, guidance counselors and so on...are really the role of the parents.
4. The home is supposed to be the spiritual growing center for our children
5. The parents are the most fundamental part of a children's life....If you don't believe me, let's see what God thinks...

Discussion:

I. Teaching a Child in Knowledge (Deut. 6:5-9)

- A. First, the parent must love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and might (5)
 1. In teaching a child they need a good teacher
 2. A teacher needs to be well acquainted with the material he/she teaches
 3. Illustration: who would hire a tutor for their kid who does not know the material himself? You don't...
- B. The words of the Lord need to be more than known but written on the heart (6)
 1. This means mere knowledge is not enough but understanding
 2. An average teacher knows how to get the right answer but does not know why it is so;
A great teacher not only gets the right answer but knows how and why and can explain the logic behind the problem
- C. Teaching needs to come all the time (7-9)
 1. Due diligence (7, 17-18))
 2. Verbal communication (7)
 3. Teaching by example in our home (7)
 4. They need to know that your house is a house of God (7-9)
- D. Example needs to spread beyond the Home (Deut. 6:10-16)
 1. When rubber meets the road the children need to know that mommy and daddy practice what they teach even when the going gets tough (10-12)
 2. They need to see the fear of the Lord in their parents' life (13)
 3. They need to know God is first in your life (13-14)
 4. They need to know the consequences of disobeying God (15-16)

II. Teaching a Child in Understanding (Deut. 6:20-25)

- A. The child needs to get to the point where they ask why?
 1. When a child is young they do because mommy or daddy says to do
 2. When a child gets older, they want to know why
 3. This is the greatest teaching opportunity
 - a. No longer say, "Because I say so..."
 - b. But say because of God has done for us
- B. They need to hear your story from your own mouth (21-22)
 1. Nothing is more special to a kid when their parents get real and emotional with them.

2. A conversion story will show your kids why you are a follower of the Lord
- C. They need to know the promises of God (23-25)
 1. The command to follow God is from God (24; John 14:15)
 2. In the end righteousness for the faithful (25; 1 John 1:7-10)
 3. John 3:16

Conclusion:

1. Next time we think that the responsibility of our children, is upon others we need to think again
2. God has commissioned the family to be the perfect atmosphere for spiritual growth...
3. The home's responsibility is to bring the children up in the instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)
4. We as parents need to make our home a spiritual learning and growth center...When walking through schools; I always see school spirit sayings and different quotes on the importance of an education. Do people know that in our homes, we wear our signs and post signs about God and the importance of spiritual development? (not necessarily literal)