

Family First

Raising spiritually healthy children isn't easy and there aren't any quick fixes.

- A parent's relationship to God is vital for raising spiritually energized children.
- God asks us to have an all-in love for Him that we pass onto our children. Deut. 6:4-7

Prosperity can cause families to develop spiritual amnesia and drift from God. Deut. 6:12-16

- *"then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD..."* Deut. 6:12

How parents respond to daily challenges shapes their children's belief about God. Ex. 17:1-7

- *"they tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us, or not'"* 17:7
- Parents must carry the staff of God into every aspect of their family's life.

We need to train our children how to imitate the character of God. Psalm 78:4

- God is Sovereign: (1.) How do we model this? (2.) How do we teach this?
- God is Merciful and Forgiving: (1.) How do we model this? (2.) How do we teach this?
- God is Loving:
 1. How do we model God's love for our children?
 2. How do we teach God's love to our children?

We need to show our children how to chew on the Word of God. Psalm 78:5

- Intentional Faith Talks/Teachable Moments:
- God Sightings:
- Prayers of Blessing:

What are the desired results of building spiritually into our Children? Psalm 78:7

- We desire that they will put their trust in God.
- We desire that they will remember God's deeds.
- We desire that they will keep God's commands.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Evaluate and build upon current plan for growing your personal relationship with God. Consider following components: Bible study, prayer, worship, accountability, outreach.
2. Select an attribute of God and set the goal of sharing it with your children this week. Consider: (1.) How can you model it for them? (2.) How can you teach it to them?
3. "Chewing on God's Word" - What's your current plan? Younger children are very open to your involvement. Choose materials & seize the moment. If your children are older ask them how their study is going, do they need help and look for teachable moments.
4. "God Sightings" - Celebrate at least one this week. Look for them in your children.
5. Ask your kids if you've let them down in any way. (Listen, listen, listen!) Ask forgiveness.
6. Ask God to use you to lead your children to Christ and grow them in their love for Him.

Lift up the "Staff of God" in your home.