

## **PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE**

Deuteronomy 6:1-25      Jeff Schreve

What does God say about the all-important job of a parent?

### **1. Parenting starts in your own heart.**

A. A good parent is a good disciple.

*"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

B. A good parent is a good example.

*For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me. 1 Corinthians 4:15-16*

### **2. Parenting needs to firmly establish a godly foundation.**

*"And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:6-9*

A. Diligently teach your children who the LORD is.

1. He is God alone.

2. He is good, mighty, and faithful.

*"When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the LORD our God commanded you?' then you shall say to your son, 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt; and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. Moreover, the LORD showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; and He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.'"*

*Deuteronomy 6:20-23*

3. He is worthy.

B. Diligently teach your children how to respond to Him.

1. God wants us to fear Him.

*"You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him, and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth. Deuteronomy 6:13-15*

2. God wants us to love Him.

3. God wants us to trust and obey Him.

**3. Parenting is not a perfect science with perfect results.**

A. You can do lots of things right and not see great results.

*And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice. 1 Samuel 8:1, 3*

B. You must not torture yourself over parenting failures.

C. You can continue to pray for God to work on your children.

**Will you determine to be the parent God wants you to be?**