

Diligent Discipleship Parenting

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

If you have your Bibles, open up to Deuteronomy 6, we're going to be looking at verses 4-9. I'm going to read that scripture. It's very familiar to all of you. I'm sure, have heard it, studied it, gone through it, maybe memorized it. So, Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This is God's word...

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children 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, you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.

So tonight we're going to talk about diligent discipleship, parenting and just want to pause here because I know there's some people in here that have come to worship that aren't parents, for various reasons. There's some young people in here, some high school and junior high students in here but this sermon is for you too. God's word speaks to you as well. It speaks to all of us. and if you don't have children, I want to encourage you that what we're about to talk about tonight, is for you. if you're a part of the family of Christ, and you are, in a sense, spiritual mothers and spiritual fathers to the children in our church and the DNA of Briarwood, you've heard that said many times "for coming generations." And so we are all we all have responsibility to pass off the gospel, to pass the torch, to tell the coming generations of the Lord. And so, so don't tune out on this as we as you hear the word parenting in the title. Parenting. As a matter of fact, when we have our baptisms up here, we all stand up and we commit to supporting the parents and building on what they're the foundation that they're laying, supporting, praying and assisting the raising of each child in the love and admonition of the of the Lord. And so we're all in it together as the family of God on my parenting journey.

Allison, I had our first child in 2009, and neither one of us grew up, taking care of little, little siblings or babysitting. And so, it was a wake up call for us. We had Elizabeth that we call her Elle now and, she spent the night in the hospital. The next morning, we woke up and the nurse comes in and she says, all right, did y'all change a diaper last night? And we looked at her and we said, we. We thought you were going to do that because they'd been coming in and out. We thought the nurses were going to do that. And she looked at us and very politely said, you are the parents. And so that was the first humbling experience as a parent. And then we're walking out of the hospital, you know, taking our putting the child in the car. And, we're going to go home first child. And I remember talking to Allison and going, are there no questions, no test? They're not going to ask us about our experience or what we know about parenting.

It was harder to get my driver's permit than to take a human life home. We felt that pressure as we were leaving the hospital. There's no test, there's no questions. We just put them in the car and go home. And. Yeah, that that's what happened. And then we get home and, my mother in law, my mom came over and helped us, and, and that was a huge help, a huge blessing. But when they left, it hit us for the first time. This is real. We are in charge of this human, for as long as God calls us to -- the soul. It was one of the most scariest, wonderful moments of our life. Becoming parents for the first time. It's a humble, humble calling to be a parent. It's hard with all the joys that come with it. It's exhausting. It's scary. It's tiring. Parenting children, quickly, shows us our shortcoming. I remember before we had kids, I was asked to teach on parenting. And just my experience in the with youth ministry and what kids were facing today. And I went and talked to many parks and, was like, hey, can I kind of go over this talk about parenting? And he said, sure, I'd love to talk to you about that. And, and he said, well, just so you know, I stopped talking about parenting when I became a parent and, that's the way we feel. It's so humbling that who are we to give advice to other parents because we know how hard it is and how challenging it is and how much we need to rely on the Lord. it's also a high calling. we know that children are blessing from the Lord. Psalm 127 tells us that. Martin Luther says this about the high calling of parenting. He says ***God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve him in all the world. This is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls.*** There is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children. It's a very high calling. And so as we look at parenting tonight, we're going to ask the question, what is the chief goal? What is the chief desire of parents? It's a chief goal in parenting. Better question is what is our chief goal in parenting? is it is it to be sure that they have a great education, that they get to go to college, that they have a chance to play sports to be a successful? We're setting them up to be successful in life, a successful businessman or businesswoman. Now, those aren't bad goals, but that isn't our ultimate goal in parenting. Those are not things that should drive us in our parenting. Yet they do. A lot of times, our chief and ultimate goal in parenting is for our children to know and walk with the Lord and to glorify him.

What we value most will drive our parenting. So if we value that, that will be what drives our parenting. And it's easy just to lose sight of what our chief goal should be, and to be swept up in those things and to be overly concerned with those things that are really important. But those aren't our chief motivators in parenting. And we would probably say, I'll say that faith has supreme value in our home. But if we look at our calendars and our wallets and even think about our conversations at home or around the dinner table, or just as we're walking about or sitting on the couch, they may tell a different story. We have a lot of times we have a good academic plan. We have a good plan for the week, for the month. But do we have a good spiritual plan for parenting? We must remember that our chief goal is the spiritual welfare of our children.

And so we come to Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy gives us some basic instructions, for raising the next generation. Again, this is not just for parents. This is for all of the adult community in the

church. And I would say to the children out there, your job is to listen to your parents and would be hungry for their instruction and to desire it. And to have, ready ears and open hearts to what God is telling them to tell you but we get some basic instructions here in Deuteronomy and it is very basic. Think about the story Pastor Reeder used to always tell us. So I'm stealing it from him. but it actually happened. Vince Lombardi, who is a famous football coach for the green Bay Packers back in the early 60s. they were really good. It says before the Super Bowls were, or even called the Super Bowl was the NFL championship. But he took his team to the NFL championship. And, they lost a pretty close game the next season, the first day of training camp, he brings a football. And some of you have heard this story. He brings a football in to all those players. First thing he said first day of training camp. And he goes, gentlemen, this is a football. And when they get into the playbook they start on page one. Gentlemen, this is a football. They start on page one. He was going back to the basics.

And this is what Moses does in Deuteronomy. He takes us to the basics. And I just thought it was fitting because our theme this year is, is shoring up or ***strengthening the foundations***. And so it's good as parents, as adults, to look at the next generation. And our role in their lives and our responsibility. And to ask the question, is the foundation strong? Is it even there? How can I strengthen it? So hopefully, we can do that tonight. I want to look at the context of Deuteronomy and then look at four basic fundamental parenting principles.

And so if you'll look back in Deuteronomy with me to look at the context a little bit, verse four says this here, O Israel, here, O Israel, Moses for some reason says, here, O Israel, and you hear, and you hear that, and you think, why did he tell them to listen? Does it mean they don't have to hear anything else? He says no. The reason he says that is because what he's about to say has supreme value, high importance. And we do that all the time. You may be in business and you're meeting with your team and are meeting with people, and you go, hear me on this, hear me on this, or what I'm about to say is important. And I need you to listen to this.

The first time we let our children walk around the neighborhood, okay? Not just to the stop sign and back, but around the neighborhood where we couldn't see them anymore. It was a scary thing. sad that you kind of have to be scared about that in this day and age, but it's a scary thing to let your child walk around the neighborhood. Even we sat them down and we said, I need you to hear me on this. Do not talk to strangers. Do not talk to strangers. It's not that I don't want them to hear anything else I've ever said that had supreme value in the moment.

And that's what Moses is doing here. He's saying, Israel, stop! Hear me on this one. I'm about to tell you is extremely important. It's foundational because if you don't get this right, nothing else matters. Nothing else will work. That I'm about to tell you. Well, why was it so important? Why did he need them to hear him? At this moment, Israel, as you know, he had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, and now they're kind of at the end of that time. And Moses is 120 years old. He's an old man, and he knows his time is coming to an end. And so, in a sense, these are his last words. This is his last exhortation to his people. And so he realizes that he may not have another chance, and he needs to tell him something that has supreme value. But Moses

also realizes what is before Israel as they're about to, take over the land of Canaan - about to move into the land and land of Canaan. And more importantly, God knows what they're about to, come up to when they enter this land. And we when we think about the land of Canaan, we call it the land of milk. And what? Honey? Right. And we think heavenly. It's pointing to heaven. It's a physical example of what heaven's going to be like. It's a beautiful place. It's fertile. It's going to be great land for them. But the people that were there were not heavenly. There were seven nations that they were going to be confronted with, and none of those nations believed in God. All of them worshiped false gods, worshiped idols. They hated God's people. They were evil and pagan. And so Moses knows they're not just entering into a land that was promised by their forefathers. They were entering into a battle they were going to have to win over this land physically. But it was also a spiritual battle. And so Moses says hear, O Israel, what you're about to do is going to be hard. And I need you to know the foundations. I need you to hear me on this.

We can see later on the passage, if you'll look to verse ten, we see Moses kind of gives them a glimpse to what they're about to be faced with. Says this. *And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob, to give you with great and good cities, that you did not build, and houses full of all good things, that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant. And when you eat and are full, then take care, lest you forget the Lord.* What a great reminder. We're just like Israel. We, the Lord, gives us so much and provides so much. Number one, our salvation. But two the blessings that we have in the Lord, both spiritual and physical. And we tend to forget and just go about our way. And that's what he's saying. You're going to get there and all these things are going to be there. Things that I did, don't forget about the Lord. And then he goes on to say, who brought you out of Egypt? Out of the house of slavery? Verse 13, *it is the Lord your God. You shall fear him. You shall serve, and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you. For the Lord your God is in your midst is a jealous God.* So Israel is about to enter a land with nations that we're going to lure, entice and seduce them and their children away from the Lord. That's what they are entering in to. That sound familiar? Deuteronomy is for us. That is the world we live in. We live in a culture that is trying to entice not only our children, but us, but definitely our children entice and lure and seduce our children away from the one true God. And so I don't need to give statistics. There's a lot of them, but I think we all understand that and would agree that this is a daunting task to parent in today's culture. And probably a lot of you parents that maybe your grandparents now or your kids have grown up and they're out of the house, you've probably said, I would hate to be a parent in today's age because it's hard. There's a lot of unique challenges. They're not unique in the sense that they're new, but they're unique. And in terms of the method that they're coming at us now.

And so we bring it back to Moses. He needs them to listen. What essential and foundational truths do they need to know for themselves and for their children, so that they can live in a

culture that doesn't love God and be a light and glorify God and all that they do. And so four basic foundational truths that we're going to see in this passage.

Number one, godly parenting starts with parents who are pursuing God, godly parenting starts with parents and with the older generation who are pursuing God - hear, O Israel. the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. So imagine Moses standing in front of the nation of Israel. There were parents there, but there were also grandparents, and there were, I'm sure, people that that didn't have children, adults that didn't have children. This challenge was to all of them. But he's putting the weight on the next generation. He's putting the weight on the older generation. That's what he's doing. He's saying to the adults, it starts with you. You are the one that has to pass the truth on to the next generation, that the weight falls on, on us, on the adults. And he emphasizes that word you/your. If you look back in the passage 20 times, he he's talking to the adults, you. And we know this because he goes on to say, teach them diligently the commands to your children. So he does refer to the children, but right now he's addressing the adults. But let me just read through here and just think. And watch how many times the Lord says you/your the emphasis that's on the older generation *Hear of Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit down in your house, and when you walk, by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise, you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates.*

Number two is you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Matthew Henry says this. He says that Moses gives the adults a principle to to be believed, that the Lord is one. There is no other God besides the Lord, a principle to be believed, and the first duty to be done to love him with all their heart, soul, and mind he wants the adults to know theological truth, that there is no other God other than Yahweh. They're about to enter a land where there's a lot of different beliefs, and he needs them to know there is only one true God. He needs them to be firmed up in that. So they're not deceived by false religion. That's called sound theology. He needs them to have sound theology, but he also wants them to have a sound life that comes from sound theology, a sound life. He wants them to live godly lives, a life that is fully devoted to him and you see the word all there that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind.

So, my wife Alison shares her testimony, and I love the example she gives.

She says she used to when she was kind of learning about the Lord and was a Christian, but trying to figure out what does it mean to walk with the Lord? She used to give this example. She said, you know, I kind of viewed my life as like a piece of pizza or a pie. You know, there's slices like, I'm a daughter and I'm a sister and I'm a student and I'm a worker, and I'm a Christian and I and this and this and this. And she said, as she grown, mature and began to realize what it

meant to be a Christian, she says, I got it all wrong. Being a Christian is a is a piece of my life. It's not a piece of the pie. It is the pie. And that's what God is saying. God wants all of our allegiance are all of our identity is in Christ. He has all of us and everything else. All the pieces of our life are his. Pastor Reeder used to always say, God isn't on the list. He is the list. similar to what Allison would say in her testimony. And so, Moses wants the Israelites to have sound theology in a sound life. And so the basic principle, the first basic principle is the adults parenting. Godly parenting starts with parents who know God and love God with all that they have. We are living examples for our children of what it means to have sound theology and sound lives. the Proverbs says, train up a child in the way you should go. Charles. Spurgeon says this train up a child in the way he should go, but be sure to go that way yourself. That's so true. All right. Second, basic truth is that godly parenting, realize of parents that realize that parents are the number one disciple, but not the only disciple. Parents are the number one discipler, but not the only discipler. So verse seven, you shall you adults, older generation parents, you parents specifically shall teach them your children diligently or teach them God's commandments diligently to your children, 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. The idea is that discipleship has to start in the home and in the family. It's between parents and their children. That's not the only place it happens, but that's the primary place it happens. That's where it begins to happen. And as we wake and as we sleep, and as we sit at the table and walk along the way, discipleship is happening between parents and their children.

Paul David Tripp wrote a great book, Age of Opportunity and if you have teenagers, grab it today. Go ahead. In order to order it in the bookstore, they have it, that you can just pick it up there. They have copies. If you're close to having teenagers, go ahead and read the book. because his whole premise is, when you have teenagers, we all tend to as parents tend to dread those years. And he says, don't read those years. Those years or years of opportunity. See it as an opportunity to take your teenage son or daughter in this really difficult time of life, where they're figuring things out, that God has blessed you to be able to be right there with them as they're going through that very hard journey of the teenage years. What an opportunity. And he says this the family is God's primary learning community. Parents have a platform for instruction that no one else has. And so we can't as parents pass this off. Discipleship isn't something that we pass off. We can share it and we should share it, but we can't neglect it. One preacher says this, and this is, can hit you right between the eyes. He says, our children are not falling away because church is doing a poor job. Although that is undoubtedly a factor. He says, our children are falling away because we are asking the church to do what God designed the family to accomplish. And then he goes on to say, we in our culture, we hire out everything. If our if our kids need a little extra coaching in sports, we hire a personal trainer. If they need a little coaching in their ACT we hire a tutor. And none of that is bad. By the way, we hire a tutor if they need to be spiritually impacted. We hire a children's pastor and a youth pastor. These are all good things, but they can't take place of the parent.

Now, I don't want to lose my job, I think it's great to have a youth pastor and a children's pastor. so, yes, thank you for that. Amen. That is a great thing. And Brownwood has the resources to do that. The point what he's trying to say is we can't put that all on someone else. Parents have to do their job, and we're called to be the primary disciple. And here at Briarwood, we have an incredible youth staff, an incredible children's staff, and they've been trained to love and shepherd and care and disciple your children. But this is what we tell them. We tell them our role - And this is part of our vision for the family ministry. Our role is not to go in front of the parent. It's not to come behind the parent is to come alongside of the parent, to partner with the parent, to build on the foundation that the parents are laying. And we just want to come in and build on that. That's what we want to do, is to build on that, and that's where the larger community comes in. If you don't have kids, you get to be a part of that also, you are called to pour into the next generation. You can take part in that a lot of different ways, a lot of different needs and opportunities that you can come and be a part of a child being disciplined, partnering with their parents, helping their parents, leading a "D" group here at church, helping with VBS. Those are all wonderful things that we can do, and those are really important. We have to, as parents, find people to help us raise our children and to be part of that. but we're partnering with the parents. We're not going before them or coming behind them. We're coming alongside of them. And one of the things I love the most is, we'll have students go home and tell their parents you won't believe what Amy Barrett said. You know this thing I've been talking to you about? Mom and dad? Well, Amy Barrett gave me the best advice and, you know, she tells her parents what Amy Barrett says. And what I love is when a parent comes back and tells us that conversation, the parent goes, Jay we didn't say this out loud, but when they told us what Amy told our daughter, we said in our head, I've told you that a thousand times. Why? Why did you hear it from Amy and not from us? Well, hey, they heard it from you. They heard it from you. It's sunk in. They just needed to hear it again from somebody else. And that's what our goal here at the church in the in the family ministries to come partner alongside of you. And hopefully we're just telling your children what you're already telling them at home. That's our goal. And that's a biblical model.

So if you think about Paul and Timothy, Paul, when he's writing and Timothy says this, I'm reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois, and then your and your mother Eunice. And now, I'm sure, dwells in you as well. And then he goes on in first Timothy 3:15 he says, but as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believe, knowing from who you learned it and from childhood you have been acquainted with sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

That's a beautiful model. Paul wasn't the parent. Paul didn't lay down the foundation, the gospel foundation. Timothy came to Christ and was acquainted with the scriptures through his mother and through his grandmother. And Paul is recognizing that and saying, I'm coming to build on this. Praise the Lord that this foundation was laid in your life. And now I just get to build on what your what your mom and your grandmother did and the things that they taught you. So when we think about this, though, there can be two extremes. One is we can think as

parents, I'm just going to do it on my own. I can't trust what other people are saying. Maybe even in the church. Are they going to be telling my kids all the things that I need them to know? You know, we know what we're what our standards are in our home. And I'm a little nervous to let anybody else in on that. They may not see completely eye to eye.

Well, that can be a trap. We aren't called to do it on our own. We're the primary discipler, but we need help. Bring in other people. And if you have some concerns or you have things that you really want to be emphasized and have those conversations with whoever you write in to be a co discipler or, for your child.

The other trap is that we can delegate all discipleship to other people, and that's easy to do, especially when our kids become teenagers. We go, they're not listening to me. Matter of fact, I think they hate me. So I'm just going to give them to somebody else. Maybe. Maybe they don't like that person. And, just I know it feels like they hate you. They probably don't. whenever we have, we have something called Impact Weekend and parents, choose to host their child's group in their home and all their friends. And so we have a fun in town retreat, and we hear worship and speaking, and then that group, that child will go to their parents' house and all their friends will go with them. And usually what happens most of the time, the child ends up going, man, my friends really like my parents. Why don't I like them more? And so, they do love you, but they're in a hard stage a lot of times, and it's, maybe they're embarrassing times by their appearance, but you still have a voice. You have to have a voice. You may bring more voices in when they're teenagers. but don't pawn off that important, important role.

The other thing you have to be very diligent and careful is you have to choose who's not going to influence your child. There are a lot of a lot of children and youth who are being disciplined, and parents don't even know it through Instagram or YouTube, through, social media. Whatever it is, the messages are coming at them, bombarding them, and the world is going to disciple them and we don't even know it. And so we have to have a whole we can talk lots about cell phones and technology, and I'm not against it, but it's a lot of things that we have to we have to think through when we I give that over to our children. So that's the second basic truth.

Number 3. Godly parenting, strives to have a Christ centered, Scripture filled home.

Deuteronomy 6:7. This is what Moses is saying. *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.* So we should be two words there teaching and talking. Right?

Teaching is more formal instruction, but we also should be talking about God's commands. So there's some formal kind of more classroom. Sit down. Let's have a lesson. But then a lot of what we do in our discipline, our children is talking. That's why he says along the way, and just as you're going about you're having conversation, now, you're teaching, you're always teaching, but you're talking about the Lord. so we're always to be constantly teaching and talking about the Lord. Go back to Lombardy. He gets his team and he says, this is a football. And I think this is what Moses is saying to the nation of Israel, nation of Israel. You are about to go into the promised land, but there's going to be, evil and idols and all kinds of things that are going to try

to seduce you. This is a Bible. This is God's word. Know it, teach it to your children, prepare them, teach them how to love God and to know the God of the word. Teach him His word. Paul, David Tripp again says, our families, our classroom, our textbook is the Bible. And so Moses is telling Israel, we have to be devoted to the scriptures. It is only here that our children will learn who God is, what he's done for them, how they can know him, and how they can live for him. So the question is, do we believe that? Do we believe in the power of Scripture? Do we believe that Scripture is the change agent for our children? Psalm 19: 7-9.

It's a great, just passage on the word talks about God's Word and it says it's perfect. It revives the soul. It's sure it makes one wise. It's right. It makes the heart rejoice that God's of all God's commands or to be more desired than gold, even fine gold and sweeter than the honeycomb. That's what we have to embrace and know and believe as parents is that God's Word is it's more valuable than gold itself, and it's sweeter than honey. And even when we teach it to they're our children and they don't want to hear it, it is doing a work in their hearts. And here's what they need to hear. Hebrews 4:12 *for the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Psalm 119. *How can a young man keep his way pure by guarding it according to your word?* John 17:17 sanctify them in your truth. Your word is truth. And so we have to be teaching our children God's Word. That's not just done at the dinner table. That's why I got Moses says, even as you're walking around, you're teaching God's Word.

We love to go on family walks and, and it's just things like even on those family walks saying, can you believe what God's given us? Look at those flowers. Look at those trees. Look at look at the moon. These are the fingerprints of God who created all of this. It's finding ways to infuse God's word into your home. And if it's written on in your heart, then it's going to come out of your mouth. wherever you are. Highway 280 is a great opportunity to teach God's word, to teach about patience and anger and, how you treat your mortal enemy. that cuts you off. using God's Word in every circumstance. Your son or daughter struggling in conflict, a kind word turns away wrath. We're to love our enemies as Christ loved us. And when they're struggling with body image, we're constantly tell that that shouldn't be the first time we talk about God's creation with them. We're constantly reminding them that you are made in the image of God. You were knitted in your mother's womb. You were specially created. It's infusing God's scripture, the Scripture, into everything. So we teach it. But we also have to model it. That's what Jesus did. He taught and he did. He taught and he did. He modeled what it meant to live for God. And so we have to model that discipleship is a way of life.

Number Four is godly parenting takes diligence. So that says you, you are to diligently teach these commandments to your children. And so teach them what Scripture teach them. When all the time teach them where? everywhere. Teach them how diligently, diligently study earnest being energetic. It's devoted, painstaking work to teach my children the word of God. the Hebrew term there is similar to it kind of points to getting a rock and chiseling, words into a

rock. That's the picture we get is we are taking the hearts of our children and we are teaching them diligently his Word. We are chiseling it in, and we're pressing upon him God's Word. And we do a lot of things diligently as a parent, a lot of things that are good to do diligently. But we are to diligently teach them God's Word.

So now Moses knew that the people of Israel were about to be thrown in the middle of paganism, but their enemy was not primarily these seven nations. He knew that really, their enemy was the enemy behind the enemy, and that was Satan. And that Satan is diligent in his attack. Satan is going to diligently feed our children lies about who they are, where they came from, and what their purposes Satan is going to diligently feed our children lies about their gender and their sexuality. Satan is going to diligently feed them lies about where life is found, that it is found anywhere else besides Jesus Christ. And so Moses reminds us that we have to be diligent to teach them God's Word. Satan was diligent when he tempted Jesus -- came at him three times. And what did Jesus say? Jesus says, man shall not, shall not live by bread alone, but the very Word of God.

If we want our children to truly live and not survive this world, but live and be lights for Christ, we have to help them to know the bread of life. They need to know that life, true life, comes from the Word of God. So just a quick, really quick couple practical, applications. If you're a parent and you think I haven't done a great job of this, join the club. Every single parent would say that. Nobody says, I've done a great job at my parenting. I promise you, if they if they have, they will probably be humbled very quickly. but everybody feels like they've failed or they're failing in areas in parenting. but if you say we haven't done a good job infusing the gospel, talking about God's Word, I would you say start somewhere, start with five minutes a day and we've got great resources. I've got three up here. the little family devotions that are just easy. They take five minutes. You can go 10 or 15, or you can go, five minutes, but start somewhere. Start small. don't throw in the towel. start somewhere and let God bless that. if you're not a parent, remember that you have a part to play, pray and ask God, how can I assist other parents? How can I be a part of the of telling the next generation about the Lord? How can you support the parents that are around you and remember that you get to be a part of that as well?

And then thirdly, I would say, do not fear. As parents, there's a lot of things to be fearful of. If the Israelites really knew what they were getting into, they would be very afraid. And we see the picture of Joshua. He knew what he was getting into. And God says, do not fear, for I am with you. And so we do not have to fear. Although there's things to fear in parenting. If you're a Christian, if you're in Christ, Christ has won the battle. He won the battle over sin, overcame sin on the cross, overcame death when he raised on the third day. And he's given us his spirit and he's empowering us to parent our children. And he is the only one that can change their souls. He just calls us to be faithfully pointing them to him.

But the Bible says that Satan is like a roaring lion waiting to devour. But the word like is really important. He's like a lion. But we know Jesus is the lion and the lamb, and that's who we turn our eyes to, and that's who we turn our children's eyes to as we parent them.

Let me pray.

Father, thank you for this, time together. Thank you for your word is so rich, Lord, and so good and so practical and basic but profound. Help us to, to strengthen the foundation with our own children that we would be teaching them the word we'd be modeling it. But, Lord, that we as parents, as adults would, would believe that you are God. There are no gods other than you, and that we would love you with all our heart, soul and mind. And then we teach the next generation about you.

Lord, we love you and pray those things in Christ's name.

Amen.