Basic Training | April 30, 2023

Summary

The most important thing a parent can do, besides lead their children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, is to point their lives in the right direction and do everything they can, within reason, to love and keep them on the right path!

Scripture

"These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you. "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. -Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NLT)

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! -Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. -Proverbs 22:6 (NLT)

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. -Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT)

Let's Start

What, in your opinion, is the most difficult part of parenting?

Gratitude and Prayer

How did God work in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

- 1. Pastor Dale said, "As parents, our main task is to prove to our children and grandchildren how satisfying God and His word really are." How can we convey our satisfaction with God and His word to others?
- 2. Pastor Dale shared two parenting principles in this sermon:
 - Point your children to the right path and walk in it with them.
 - Protect your children by limiting the influence of social media.
 - Take time to discuss how to implement these two principles into your parenting, what you're currently doing and what area you could improve.
- 3. Pastor Dale shared a "test" to ask yourself. Discuss: "Do I give you the impression that God and His word fully satisfy my life and fills me with joy?"
- 4. What is our responsibility as Christian parents? If you aren't a parent or your children are grown, how can you influence the next generation?

Let's Act

Pastor Dale encouraged trying methods of hearing and responding to God through His word called SOAP. Using a journal, choose the passages you (and your family) will work through in the coming week. Ideally, you can do it together before a meal and use the meal time to discuss what scripture you chose, observed, applied and prayed about. Let that spawn further discussions as you talk about how it applies to each other's lives.

S - SCRIPTURE

Choose and write out the Bible verse(s)

O - OBSERVATION

Is there a word, phrase or image that sticks out in your mind from this passage? A main lesson or theme?

A - APPLICATION

How can you apply God's Word to your life? Are there any changes I need to make? **P – PRAYER**

Turn the scripture, observation and application into a prayer to the Lord.

Further parenting resources: Mama Bear Apologetics and Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality by Hillary Morgan Ferrer. These guides equip you to teach children how to form their own biblical beliefs about truth and how to face the culture's lies. There is also a website, mamabearapologetics.com, which includes podcasts, a blog, resources and other ways to train yourself and equip your kids. Wooddale also has groups that discuss Mama Bear Apologetics. To be a part of the Mama Bear Mingle, go to the Wooddale Women's website: wooddale.org/women and sign up under "Mama Bear Mingle," which will keep you updated on other Mama Bear studies. For men: A "Papa Bear Apologetics" study is coming soon. Please email info@wooddale.org and mention your interest in joining this group.