

“God’s Got Your Kids”

TRIBE Sermon Series, Week Two | Newbreak Church | February 21st, 2021

This week is about parenting. Parenting is one of the most formidable discipleship relationships. We are given chances every day to impact our kids’ faith as their parents. This message provides practical encouragement and biblical ideas of how to lead our kids in following Jesus.

For more insights relating to this week’s sermon, see <https://newbreak.church/blog/>. We post a new blog every Sunday which coincides with the sermon passage or theme from that day.

Start Here

- Growing up, what was your favorite family tradition?
- What is your favorite part of being a parent (or aunt/uncle)? What is the most difficult part?

Think Deeper by Reading Deuteronomy 6:4-9

As you read through these verses keep these questions in mind:

- What value does this chapter add to what we understand about God?
- What are some of the things that stand out to you when you read the passage?

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

Point 1 – Commit to putting my relationship with Jesus first.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on **your** hearts. (Deuteronomy 6:6)

What we read in this passage known as the *Shema* is not meant to be taken as a prescriptive list, but as a picture describing the mentality of discipling our kids. And whether or not you have kids of your own, we all have kids in our lives who we can influence. Raising up our youth is a team effort!

Parenting is leading our children toward Christ-likeness. Since we are children of God ourselves, we are constantly training and learning more of what it means to follow God's path. Our challenge as parents is to translate everything we learn as adults to our children throughout the different stages of their development. In other words, **the more we grow as sons and daughters of God, the more we can teach our sons and daughters to surrender to God.**

At Newbreak we always say that "you can't give away what you don't have, but you do give away what you do have." If we want our kids to know God and His truths, we will need to be sure we are nurturing our own walk with God so that our parenting is coming out of the overflow of that relationship.

It's the picture of putting on your oxygen mask first on an airplane, before you put one on your kids. In other words, one of the best ways to help foster the faith of our children is to be passionate Jesus followers ourselves.

What this ultimately comes down to is **leading by example.**

[Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. \(1 Corinthians 11:1\)](#)

Parenting can really be as pure and genuine as growing together and learning together. Leading by example means to model the ways of Christ for your kiddos. Here are some examples of the kinds of things to model below:

Model knowing and loving God above all else. **Let your kids see you serve.**
Model confession and repentance. **Let your kids see you say you're sorry.**
Model giving and receiving grace. **Let your kids hear you say, "I forgive you."**

Leading by example will not always resemble a highlight reel of parenting success as we are all a work in progress. Modeling also involves being authentic with our shortcomings as well.

- What practices or habits do you have in your life right now to help yourself grow spiritually?
- "You can't give away what you don't have." What are some healthy traits or habits that you want to pass onto your kids that you may or may not have received from your parents?
- "Raising kids is a team effort." Who in your life is on your "team"?

—PUT IT INTO PRACTICE—

Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us to love God with all of our “heart” and with all of our “soul.” How did the Hebrew people think of this in psychological terms? The heart was regarded as the center of a person in terms of their emotional and thought life. Decisions were made in a person’s *heart*. The soul was one’s source of life and vitality and was even synonymous with one’s “being.” The two terms “heart” and “soul” are a way of indicating that God wants our unreserved devotion, stemming from our whole selves.

Whether we know it or not, the devotion of our “heart” and “soul” is guided by our values. Whether you are single, married, or have kids, it is a great idea to lead your life through the lens of values. In other words, what we choose to value will be vital for the direction of our life. It has been said: “Direction, not intention, determines destination.” Creating a list of values helps ensure that a Jesus-centered life truly is our priority. Maybe your family values include responsibility, or bravery, or gratitude, or compassion. There are many words or phrases to choose from! Let Christ be your inspiration.

How do we create a list of values?

1) Start by brainstorming. Sit down with your spouse (or if you are single you can do this yourself!) and talk through what words or phrases represent what is *most* important to you that you want to emphasize and that will guide your decisions and direction.

2) Narrow the list. There is no right number of values, but the more concise, the more memorable. A good number might be between five to eight values.

3) Personalize your final list. These are *your* values. So write out descriptions and explanations of what this means for you and *your* family!

Here is an example of what this might look like...

We value Generosity – A willingness to give of ourselves because everything is a gift from God.

We believe that everything belongs to the Lord (Psalm 24:1), which means we are stewards of what we have. We are to be wise, take care of what we have, invest in ourselves, but never to the neglect of also taking care of those in need. God’s generosity toward us is the inspiration to be generous toward others. After all, happiness cannot be hoarded, it actually increases through our bountiful kindness (Acts 20:35).

Point 2 – Be intentional with my parenting, knowing that discipleship starts at home.

7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

In Deuteronomy 6:7-9, Moses described the importance of devotion to God in the context of family. Here are a few things we can observe from this passage.

1) Impress them on your children. The idea of “impressing” God’s truths upon our children is likened to that of the engraver of a monument who takes hammer and chisel in hand, and with painstaking care, etches a text into the face of a solid slab of granite. The sheer labor of such a task is daunting indeed, but once done the message is there to stay. Thus the task of parents is to—with greater intentionality—instill God’s truth into our kids.

2) Talk about them as you come and go. We can make our faith conversational. Whether you are at the dinner table or you are on a drive, there is never a bad time to infuse “God-talks.” Especially if we do a good job to make those conversations genuine, helpful, and joyous—*not* only when there is correction involved. Do I talk with my kids about Jesus? Is it helpful and applicable to them? Is it only when I am correcting them? Or do I also encourage them frequently?

3) Write them on the doorframes of your house. Is this permission to go to your nearest Hobby Lobby and splurge on tons of Christian decor? Perhaps! But only if we understand the point. Think about how often you see (consciously or subconsciously) the decor in your home. I bet you have memorized some of the phrases or pictures you see daily! Now, consider how your home could have intentional visuals that promote discipleship. Do not underestimate the power of visual reminders and how that might influence your thoughts or the thoughts of your children.

- What advice would you give to a young parent today that you wish you knew when you had your first child?

- Moses instructed the Israelities to “impress” or engrave God’s truth onto the heart’s of their children. What are some ways that we can do that today?

- In what ways do you currently encourage a faithful relationship with God in your home? How can you be more proactive in nurturing your family's relationship with Jesus? If you haven't created an intentional plan to foster your family's faith, it's not too late, start today!

*For a great parenting resource for raising up our kids to follow Jesus, including a podcast and a blog, see <https://www.intentionalparents.org/>

—ADDITIONAL INSIGHT—

“Have fun with your family!”

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!

(Psalm 118:24, NLT)

There are some days when you just know that today is a good day to rejoice and be glad. Does your family make time to have fun together? What if this was something important to the heart of discipleship? Think about it this way: God is the Author of joy. Some days the most godly thing we can do is showcase that God's path for us leads us to “rejoice and be glad.” It's easy to get lost in the monotony of life and lose sight of the joy of spending time with loved ones. After all, finding joy in life and having fun with loved ones is a glimpse of heaven. As C.S. Lewis famously said: “Joy is the serious business of heaven.”

How can you lead your family to practice Psalm 118:24 this week?

—SUMMARY—

There is a consistent need to lead our kids to Jesus. Deuteronomy 6:4-9, a famous passage known as the *Shema*, provides some insight on how to prioritize discipleship as a family.

So we are challenged to:

- 1) Commit to putting my relationship with Jesus first.
- 2) Be intentional with my parenting, knowing that discipleship starts at home.

—FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

1. How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?
2. What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?
3. BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?