

Family: Investing in Something That Lasts | Part 4

Lesson 6

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10;

1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 6:4

May 12, 2024

The Power of Modeling

INTRODUCTION

On his way home from church, Ethan was unexpectedly caught by a red light and uttered a word that was not in that morning's sermon. Then, he was shocked when he heard three-year-old Joshua say the same word from the back seat.

Parenting is an active verb, and children are sponges. Billy Graham said it this way: "Our lives speak loudly to those around us, especially the children in our home."

Parents are by far the biggest influence in most children's lives, and all the actions and emotions that children observe in their parents shape who they become...for better or worse.

If kids witness anger, stress, and fear, they are more likely to be angry, stressed, and fearful. If, however, they see trust, patience, and prayerfulness, they are more likely to be trusting, patient, and prayerful.

Watch your children throughout the week. How do your actions, emotions, and reactions affect their moods and behaviors? If your children are adults, you are still an influence! Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your words and actions that your children see...no matter their age.

Memory verse: "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."— Romans 12:10

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What was the purpose of parents and children observing/keeping/obeying the commands, decrees, and laws? (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)
2. How does Paul tell fathers to bring up their children? (Ephesians 6:4)
3. What does Jesus tell his disciples to do so that others will know that they are His disciples? (John 13:34-35)
4. What does love look like? (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
5. How does Paul say that we should treat each other? (Romans 12:10)

4. Reread Deuteronomy 6:1-9, and write down the commands that God gives to parents in verses 4-9. What is the significance of the order of the commands? How do these verses embody this week's reading in Ephesians 6:4 and Romans 12:10?

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. What habits (either good or bad) do you have that your parents also had/have? Do you think that you "inherited" them or picked them up by witnessing them exhibited by your parents?

2. If you are a parent, write down two to three things that you know your kids picked up from watching you. Are these good or bad habits?

3. Considering what you've learned from the passages in this week's lesson, what are some steps you can take to follow Jesus this week regarding modeling proper behavior?