

# Home Group Questions

The week of 3/18/2018

Various Scriptures

## PARENTING BY DESIGN!

### **GETTING STARTED...**

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel taught concerning God's design for parents (and grandparents). To truly understand our role and live it out, we must connect with the plan that God has laid out in His Word.

### **LOOKING IN THE WORD...**

**1. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.** The Lord is reteaching the Israelites His Law prior to their conquering the land that He had promised. He gives them these instructions and many others. As we seek to conquer the challenges that lie before us every day in our marriages and families, build principles from these verses that will help in doing this. What are some ideas you have used in your home to make the Word of God prominent even in this technological age?

**2. Read Joshua 24:1-18.** The key verse in this entire passage is Joshua's call to serve the Lord. Talk about this passage and the emotions that Joshua (nearing the end of his life) and the Israelites must have been feeling. How can we take a stand like Joshua did in our lives every day to establish that we as individuals and families will serve the Lord?

**3. Read Matthew 7:21-27.** Verses 21-23 emphasize the truth that a faith that saves you is a faith that changes you and causes you to develop your relationship with Jesus.

- Look at all the accomplishments that Jesus lists in verse 22. What does that say about God's attitude toward good works? How can we each minimize the possibility of falling into the category of those in verse 22?

- Read the passages in verses 24-27. What are some of the "rains" and "floods" that pound on the foundation of our families today?

(challenges from school, media, etc.) What are some strategies we can use to combat the forces that seek to undermine our families and the faith of our children?

**4.** Here are some keys to building families according to God's plan. Discuss each habit in the following keys (read verses if you have time):

1) What is the major societal factor, cultural battle, or personal issue that you battle as a parent in accomplishing these habits?

2) What's an idea that you have implemented or want to implement that would help you accomplish each of these facets in your home?

- 1. Christians beliefs and values are proactively and enthusiastically taught.** Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4
- 2. Family gatherings and activities are a high priority.** Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- 3. Life at home is engaging and interactive.** Deuteronomy 6:6-7
- 4. Love & affirmation are freely and meaningfully given.** John 15:12; Romans 13:8
- 5. Children are disciplined with love and limits.** Hebrews 12:10-11; Proverbs 13:24

**5.** Interact with this quote from a recent parenting article: "Structure and rules not only make child rearing easier, they're also essential. Trying to raise a responsible, cooperative child without age-appropriate boundaries is like trying to raise a goldfish outside its fishbowl. Far from squelching the spirit, rules are needed for kids to flourish."

Why do you think there is a movement away from laying down clear expectations and rules for children in our culture today? What are creative ways in which rules and expectations can be communicated more positively and effectively to our children in our homes today? Share ways in which you have sought to give your kids (or grandkids) the boundaries that are helpful and needed.

***MOVING FORWARD...*** *Pray for the Lord's help and wisdom as you lead your family and marriage. Grandparents pray for ways in which you can effectively be a light to your grandkids as well!*