

Family Survival 101
How Does a Family Teach Survival Skills?
Deuteronomy 6:6-9

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Text Introduction: We have been learning from Deuteronomy 6 that God gave the primary task of discipleship to the home. We have learned that “**High purpose calls for high priority because the price of failure is too high.**” This thesis is the implication of a text of Scripture that outlines for us the survival of not the family, but the nation. So, we have been saying, “So goes the family; so goes the nation.” This is what makes this such an incredibly important issue even if we are single or empty nester. We also learn in Deuteronomy 6 the foundational principles that must be learned in the family. We isolated these principles: **Know God, love God, worship God, fear God, obey God, and trust God.** These are the principles of survival. This text even gives us some practical consideration of how to teach these specific survival skills. To that, we turn our attention today.

Text: These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Introduction: When Woodrow Wilson was president of Princeton University, he spoke these words to a parent’s group:

I get many letters from you parents about your children. You want to know why we people up here in Princeton can’t make more out of them and do more for them. Let me tell you the reason we can’t. It may shock you just a little, but I am not trying to be rude. The reason is that they are your sons, reared in your homes, blood of your blood, bone of your bone. They have absorbed the ideals of your homes. You have formed and fashioned them. They are your sons. In those malleable, moldable years of their lives you have forever left your imprint upon them. (Tan, #4174, p. 960).

Last week we talked about 6 things you must teach your children before they leave home. Today, we want to talk about 6 ways that you teach these principles to our families. (Let me just remind those of you who do not have children still at home or have no children, please do not feel left out. We beg you to be praying for us in this regard. Simply hearing these principles can make you better informed as to how to pray for us.)

I simply want to walk you through the text today to isolate six ways of how you are to teach the principles of Deuteronomy in your home.

Experientially

These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart

We cannot teach what we do not know ourselves. We cannot teach what we do not live. Waylon Bailey says that when he really wants to shock someone he says, "Jesus did not practice what he preached." The rest of that is "Jesus preached what He practiced."

Repetitively

Repeat them to your children

I have asked you this week to focus on teaching your children to "know God." This week, we are giving you an outline to help you to teach the concept of "loving God." But don't think that the lesson is over.

Intentionally

Talk about them when you sit in your house

Next, we have several pairs of statements, but each make an instructive point. There should be intentional moments, planned moments of teaching.

Spontaneously

and when you walk along the road

Some of your best moments of teaching may be rather spontaneous.

Regularly

when you lie down and when you get up

Certainly, the direct implication would be in waking and going to bed. I think the application is that this is regular.

Consistently

Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates

"If you ask most parents what is the most important thing they can do to raise (sic) children who follow Christ, some will mention adequate discipline, others enrollment in a Christian school, still others the importance of homeschooling or Bible reading. They rarely mention example. Yet example is the 1st principle of parenting. This should not surprise us. Parenting is about leadership, and example is the 1st principle of biblical leadership. When parents practice what they preach, God gives them moral authority in their children's eyes. All teaching in the Bible starts with example.... Parents preach a message that either attracts or repels their children from the Gospel." (William Farley, Gospel Powered Parenting, 107)

Verse 20 gives us one final point. It is a point that offers conviction and at the same time hope. "When your son asks you in the future..." The point is be ready....be consistent over a long period of time.

James Dobson's father told him: "Your daughter is growing up in the wickedest section of the world much farther gone into moral decline than the world into which you were brought. I have observed that the greatest delusion is to suppose that our children will be devout Christians simply because their parents have been, or that any of them will enter into the Christian faith in any other way than through their parents deep travail of prayer and faith. But this prayer demands time, time that cannot be given if it is all signed and conscripted and laid on the altar of career ambition. Failure for you at this point would make mere success in your occupation a very pale and washed out affair indeed."