



Introduction

Text: Deuteronomy 6:5-8

Theme: Discipling the next generation

What does it mean to encourage children to be people after God's heart? Deuteronomy 6 urges us to be intentional and to trust God with the process of discipling the next generation.

Discussion

For parents, training your children in the teachings of Jesus can be a difficult task. We as a church must surround the children in our midst and play our part in their spiritual development. Even if you are not a parent yourself there are teens and young children that are in your sphere of influence. How are you contributing to their growth in God?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5-8

Let's focus in on verse 6. It begins with you. God must be all-important to you or he can never be important to the children around you. Your heart must be right. A heart that wants God, that is the first step.

1. If I were to ask the children that are around you the most, how would they describe your relationship with God?
 - a. Are you displaying the type of spiritual discipline that you want the children around you to display?

Now let's look at verse 7. God continues, "Talk about them (that is God's commands) when you sit at home & when you walk along the road, when you lie down & when you get up." Do you see here the emphasis upon our everyday example & our everyday living? There are so many wonderful opportunities to talk to the kids in our life about God & about godly values.

2. Are you using your time with the kids in your life wisely? Are you using that time to share godly wisdom and biblical teachings with them?
 - a. How might you incorporate the teachings of Jesus into the things you do with them on a daily or weekly basis?
3. What are the obstacles to talking to the kids in your life about godly things?
 - a. How can this group be a help to you in overcoming these hurdles?
4. What is your next step of obedience in serving the kids in your life? The kids at church?

Prayer Time

Split up in groups of three and pray for the young people in each other's lives. Pray that God would save them and use them to do mighty things for the kingdom even in their youth. Pray for Bridge Kidz, our kids ministry at the church (the children's growth and the continued vitality of the teachers). Pray also that more people would volunteer to serve with Bridge Kidz.

Additional Reading

Additional Scriptures on discipling the next generation

2 Timothy 3:15
Proverbs 22:6
Psalms 127:3