

## Deuteronomy 6:1-9 – What do we want for our kids

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***The greatest thing we can do for our kids is to make sure they know God in Jesus and love him.***

This is what God wanted for his people in the Old Testament as they were about to enter the land God had promised to them. They are to about to go into the 'Land' and Moses their leader gives a sermon. He gives God's people some important instructions. God knows that they could easily be taken away from him by the prosperity of the land or the gods of the other nations in the land.

Let's look at a few things he says:-

1. They are to have a **Three generation mindset**

**Read: 6:2**

Moses says it is about you, your children and their children. To ensure their children remember God they must not have a 'solving problems for the moment' approach to parenting. They must not have a short sighted view but a long view of parenting. It is not about getting your kids off your back as we all know they can nag. As parents don't think a vision of survival but think Jesus being known by your grandchildren.

In Judges 2 we are told that the next generation after Moses did not know God and forgot what he had done for them.

It is said that 'What is taught in one generation is assumed in the next and lost in the next.' God's people skipped a step. They went from God being taught to God being forgotten.

**They are to have a three generational mindset.**

**Also...**

2. **They are to have an instructing mindset all the time**

**Read: 7-10**

God's people are to 'impress on their children the Word of God. There is **Formal and informal** opportunities for instruction. You can have an organised planned time of teaching like we do at church on Sunday. It is necessary to have daily at home either in the morning or at night. A time to simply do 3 things – read the Bible, pray and sing.

Make this a pattern of life. As much as everyone has to brush their teeth everyday otherwise they'll get teeth decay so we must feed our hearts everyday otherwise we get heart decay. It is possible to set aside 15-20 minutes out of 23 hours to spend time like this each day. After a while your kids will keep you accountable. Like one morning Pascale said to me daddy we didn't read the Bible last night.

There are also **informal** opportunities. Like when you or walk along the road or r drive in the car. You can get from anything to Jesus. Think about it and practise it. As you walk out the door as they walk out the door. Pause for a moment to pray together for the day. When they lay down to sleep stop to give thanks for the day. When you lost it with them say sorry. Ask for forgiveness.

As much time you spend driving them to sport spend as much time being committed to and driving them to church. As much as you spend money on their schooling spend money on their spiritual education. Buy them books, cd's.

What will your child need when he is being bullied?

When they fail a test a school for the first time?

When a friend betrays them?

When they experience disappointment after disappointment?

When they win their first race at the athletics carnival?

When they appointed school captain?

In the good times and the bad times they need to know Jesus is there and they are not on their own.

**Finally...**

**3. They are to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength**

**Read: 5**

Just think your kids will remember you for something. It doesn't matter whether you mean to or not or whether your good at it or not but it will be the thing they see, hear and feel you are most concerned about. What you get excited by? What not only takes your time but your thoughts and energy? The things that you are distracted by.

If your joy, happiness, satisfaction, delight, love is not in Jesus then it won't be for anyone else around you. Something or someone is going to impact, influence, shape them. Let it be JESUS.

If we want our kids to have a reason to sing on Sunday we have to give them Jesus.  
If we want our kids not to sin on Monday, Tues, wed... we must give them Jesus.

This is a topic that is sure to make most of us feel guilty because we know we are failing.

If you're a child of God you'll want to do this but you may feel you are failing. Don't go away beating yourself up. Go away desperately asking God to help you.

Strength, success, abilities keep us from God. Weakness, failure, inabilities move us to God. Be moved to God for help.

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