



PART FOUR INTRODUCTION

In Part 4 of the series, we delved into the importance of the passing on of your faith in your family. History has shown that one generation influences the next. God mandated us to teach His commands and share His mighty deeds to the next generation. If we stray away and worship other idols, there are consequences that follow. We have all heard the term, generational sin. Many stories in the bible talk about generational dysfunction or curses which can be found in Exodus 20:5, 34:7, Numbers 14:18, Deuteronomy 5:9.

In a like manner, faith plays an essential and crucial role in the development of a healthy family. It is our duty, given by God, as parents or soon-to-be parents, grandparents, spiritual family to *impress* faith on next generation so that they may do so to the generations to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the family mottos or sayings that your older generation has impressed upon you through your family line?
 - Describe how a walk with God was/was not modelled for you in your own upbringing.
 - What would you like to see repeated to your children? Or, what would you like to see be done better?
2. If your child (or future child) looked at your weekly schedule today, or read a transcript of every word you said in a day, what do you think they would infer are the most important things in your life?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7.
 - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?

- iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- v. Some meaning questions of the text:
 - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
- vi. Some application questions of the passage:
 - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

“The faith you live will determine the legacy you leave.”

Timothy Keller states that we cannot leave the role of passing on of faith to Sunday school, church, or religious organizations. Because children watch and learn most from their parents/caregivers, these people are most responsible to share the faith with them.

- If you are a parent, what changes in your family would you like to see and how do you intend to change or improve faith disciplines at home?
- If you are a parent but married to a non-believer, how can you humbly and respectfully model spiritual development in your home? Who in your Christian community can support you in seeking the salvation for your household?
- If you are not a parent, how can you help share values of the faith to the next generation that exist in your community and day to day life?

The truth is that not all of us have receive a generational heritage of God-filled values, but this does not mean that the bad fruit continues through the rest of our generational line. We have a choice today to break the curse or repent from our ungodly ways and do our part to begin a new heritage. Read about King Josiah (2 Kings 22-23 and 2 Chronicles 34) as one example that we can take lead from.

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” - *Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NIV*