

How to Raise Godly Kids in an Ungodly World

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

What an incredible God at Work story! A story of their friendship that turned into family because of Christ. And did you catch that pivotal moment in Jade's life? When she knew she needed a change in her life she called a mom. Megan's mom. Mom's, we need you. We need you in the difficult times, in the good times, and every time in between. We need you. And you're always there. You're always there because that's how God wired you. He wired you with a nurturing heart that can handle more, endure more, balance more, and love more. More than we know, more than we appreciate, more than you get credit for. And that's what makes moms so special - foster moms, stepmoms, biological moms, adoptive moms, grand moms, ALL moms. So moms of all kind, would you stand for just a minute so we can acknowledge the goodness of God for blessing us with you on this Mother's Day?

Happy Mother's Day Slide

Mom's, we need you, we want you, we love you, and we thank the Lord for you! Happy Mother's Day!

As our mom's are being seated I'd like to welcome everyone else to Coram Deo this morning. As you can see I'm not Rob Willey. I'm a little shorter ... and rounder than him. My name is Grady Adkins and I serve as the Executive Pastor. Pastor Garth and myself are preaching these next two weeks while Pastor Rob and his wife are able to change their pace a little bit and travel to visit some of our partners who are currently at Radius in Mexico. So keep them in your prayers that they will have a great visit and have some great rest.

Ok. Are you ready to get to it this morning? Me too. Go ahead and turn with me in your Bibles to Deuteronomy chapter 6 as we look at **How to Raise Godly Kids in an Ungodly World**. If you need a copy of God's word, grab the attention of one of our ushers and they will be happy to put a copy in your hands. Deuteronomy is in the Old Testament and is found towards the front of your Bible situated as the 5th and final book that make up the Pentateuch – Pentateuch, simply meaning the first five

books of the Bible, part of the Law and written mostly by Moses. Deuteronomy was written toward the end of Moses' life and Israel's 40-year wandering in the desert, and just before the conquest under Joshua.

Now before we jump in I want to say this isn't a message just for mom's, even though it's Mother's Day. Dad's, you're not off the hook this morning. This message is for you too – It's for all parents who would like to know how to raise godly kids in an ungodly world.

And this is a really important passage of Scripture because if we ignore it, the effects can be detrimental. I mean, look at the statistics today. There is a huge problem with young adults walking away from the church. In fact, David Kinneman with Barna Research recently found that only 10% of 18-29 year-olds growing up in a Christian background qualify as **resilient disciples** – committed, faithful, and engaged young Christians who keep showing up. Wow! That's staggering! That's difficult to hear. And we can see the effects, the pull, even the attraction that an ungodly world has on our young adults. It's a 90% pull!

But this statistic is even more difficult when it hits home. When it's your own child who becomes one of the 90%. So parents, I want to encourage you this morning, with the Lord's help, and some work on our part, we can change this by being intentional in our efforts to raise godly kids in an ungodly world.

You see, what parents do or don't do in their homes can drastically influence their child. Study after study shows that no other person or thing has more potential to influence a child than their parents. Parents are a greater influence in the life of their kids than their kid's friends, social media, the church, teachers, you name it. Parents hold the greatest influence in the life of their child. And this isn't new...in fact this goes all the way back to Deuteronomy.

So, let's look at Deuteronomy 6 verses 4-9 and see how to raise godly kids in an ungodly world. Let's read starting in verse 4.

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Ok, let’s go back to verse 4. Moses said, “Hey Israel! Listen Up! Our God is the only God! And you need to love him with your whole heart. Love him with all that’s in you and with all you’ve got!”

The thing I love about this is that if we want to raise godly kids, you first have to begin with your own relationship with the Lord. In this passage, the Lord didn’t jump straight into “Parenting tips” No, he first made it personal. He said to personally...

Love the Lord with Complete Devotion (v 5-6)

That’s our first point this morning. Love the Lord with Complete Devotion. Or, how is it written in verse 5? Look with me. Verse 5 says to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and might.

Love the Lord **with all your heart** – in other words, love the Lord intensely. Don’t just treat God as someone who you know is there, but rarely act like he’s there. Love God intensely.

Secondly, love the Lord **with all your soul** – in other words, love him sincerely. Don’t just give lip service to this Christianity thing. Like when people ask if you’re a Christian and you say you are, but your actions and time management tell a different story. Love God sincerely.

And thirdly, love God **with all your might** – in other words, love him with all your strength, your energy, and with all your faculties. Don’t simply think that having relational equity with Christ on Sunday is enough. Love God everyday, with all your energy!

And there, in verse 5, after the Lord reminds Israel, through Moses, that they are to Love the Lord with complete devotion, he takes it one step farther just to drive home the point. Look at verse 6. He says, “**And these words that I command you today** (that is, the words Moses spoke to Israel on God’s behalf) **these words shall be on your heart.**” In other words, these words need to be a part of you. You first have to know them yourself. You first need to work at and be intentional with having a personal, growing, thriving relationship with the Lord before you can expect to influence your own children for Christ. If your kids never see that you care about the things of the Lord yourself, why do you think they will care? The majority of the time they won’t. The majority of the time they will emulate your own habits.

So what are your personal habits? Are they lip service to the Lord? Are they go to church as long as nothing else comes up (Oh and I hope something comes up)? Are they I’ll pray before dinner as long as I’m home and not in public? Are they I’ll set my Bible on my desk or coffee table until I pick it up to take it to church next week and hopefully someone hasn’t moved it and I have to scramble to find it because I’m already running late anyway, and you just want to get some brunch. Oh looky there, something else came up. It looks like we can’t go to church this week, afterall.

Silent pause. Or do you love the Lord with complete devotion?

If you need some help with that, let me recommend **4 ways to put your devotion to God into practice.**

1. **Worship in Church** – We do this to glorify God and express our praise. Put yourself in a place where you are sitting under the expository preaching of God’s Word every single week. Where passages of scripture are explained, illustrated, and applied to your life.
2. **Grow in Groups** – We do this to mature in Christ and connect with others. Talk about your faith frequently in a small group, a men’s or women’s Bible study, in a freedom group, in kid’s or youth ministry

3. **Serve in Ministry** – We do this to grow in grace and build up the church. Serve in Coram Deo Kids or Youth! They need you! And this will also help prepare you to teach others, especially your own children. If you have a child in one of those ministries then serve in that ministry. Look - Erin, Eric, and Robbie are experts in discipleship among their respective age groups and if you serve under them it will benefit you with your own children all the more! As I just said, they need you. Let me take just a second and share with you some of their highest needs right now.

Children's – on the weekend we need leaders for 1, 2, and 3-year old children as well as 2nd and 4th grade leaders.

Junior High we need leaders for our young men. 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade. That is for Wednesday evenings.

High School we need leaders for the upcoming freshman class - guys and girls. This is the perfect place to step in and build into the next generation.

There are other places you can step in as well, but these are the highest needs right now in Family ministry. After the service stop by their table in the lobby and find out how to serve in ministry. Men, we have a great need for you right now. If you haven't started serving somewhere yet because you're waiting for that exact place or just the right compulsion, guess what. This is it. I'm telling you there is a need, and you need to fill it. Let's have these two needs come together to be fulfilled.

4. **Abide in Christ** – We do this to find strength and joy in all we do. One way to do this is read the Bible. Get on a Bible reading plan and stick with it. Jump in with our church wide reading plan

*****Let's Read Together Slide*****

You can go to our website to download the reading plan and jump in with us right now. We are currently reading in 1st Samuel. Don't wait until we start a new book of the Bible, because chances are if you

wait, you won't start. Jump in right now, mid-book. It's ok. The important thing is to start.

Or, if you have a little bit of a commute in the morning or evening, consider listening to the Bible while driving or even getting ready in the morning. Staying in the Word daily will help you abide in Christ.

We call these 4 things our Discipleship Practices. They are the ways we encourage intentional discipleship so you can actively grow in your walk with the Lord. They are foundational to following Christ as a part of the body of Christ.

And they will help you **Love the Lord with Complete Devotion**. If you want to raise godly kids in an ungodly world, Love the Lord with Complete Devotion. And once you have committed yourself to personal growth, THEN you can teach your kids. And that's the second point.

Seize every opportunity to teach your kids. (v 7)

Take a look with me at verse 7. It reads, “7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children,**” Wait. Stop right there. Did the Lord just say I, as the parent, should teach my kids? Not my children's or youth leader? But me? Wait, wait, wait, wait! Are you kidding me? I can't even get my daughter to clean her room or my son to get off his phone, and you expect me to teach them about God?!!” *(side note, Those examples in no way refer to my kid's, cough cough sarcasm)*

There are 2 answers to that question. First of all yes, I do expect you to teach your children about God, because God expects it, as we just read in verse 7. He expects you to diligently talk with them about Him as a part of everyday life. He expects you to be their parent...and it gets messy. Just like my daughters room. Oh, I mean just like NOT my daughters room. Actually, these days she has kept a really clean room.

But then I also hear things from parents like, “I can't teach my own kids because I don't know how to parent like those whom we find in the Bible. I struggle with parenting.”

Well guess what. Join the club. None of us have our parenting all together, nor did the “great parents” of the Bible. Think about it:

Noah – After the flood subsided he had a little drinking problem that didn’t turn out so well.

Abraham – He said his wife was his sister when talking to another man.

Rebekah – She schemed with her son to deceive her husband, Isaac.

Jacob’s sons – They sold their brother into slavery – Great Family!

David – He had an affair and started a rebellion.

Eli, the priest – He lost total control of how his boys acted in church (*some of you are thinking don’t make eye contact with me, don’t make eye contact with me*)

And then the golden standard for parenting – **Mary and Joseph**.

Don’t forget about that time they left their son, Jesus, at church...for 3 days. Maybe a call to child services was in order. I mean, if these people showed up in our church we’d probably say – If you’d like to talk with someone we have a room right across the hall...

I’m just kidding. But here’s the point. **God doesn’t call you to be a super-parent, he just calls you to be a parent.** And in verse 7 he provides the “how to” of parenting, the “how to” of raising godly kids in an ungodly world. Look with me at verse 7. The Lord says,

“You shall teach them (the words, or Scripture) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

In this one verse the Lord points out four very practical ways to **seize every opportunity to teach your kids**.

In verse 7 he says that you should talk with your kids when you sit in your house, walk by the way, lie down, and rise. So let’s take a closer look at the practical ways to implement these four times to talk with our children.

1. Sit in your house – or another way to think about that is **during meals**. You gotta eat. Be intentional with dinner, at minimum. Seize this opportunity to teach your kids. Meals provide a very natural

opportunity for parents to assume the role of a teacher and target a specific truth in a relational context. It’s a time when everyone can be together and you can discuss various biblical principles and family values together. The key word here being “discuss.” Keep it natural but be intentional. Think of a topic before you sit down. And teach your kids how to pray. Not just the dinner prayer, “thank you for this food and bless it to my body.” What does that even mean? I’m pretty sure this McDonalds burger isn’t going to bless my body, but maybe the Chick-fil-A sandwich will. Afterall, it is Christian chicken! Just kidding. But the point is be intentional during your family meals.

Teach your kids when you (1) Sit in your house and secondly, when you

2. Walk by the Way – or another way to think about this is **when you travel**...traveling to or from school, extracurricular activities, the grocery store, wherever you are traveling. Seize this opportunity to teach your kids. Let your drive time together consist of informal dialogue where you truly show your child that you are their friend and help them interpret life. Here’s what I mean by that. For example, talk with them about their agenda for the day or the next couple days. Help them understand what their priorities should be.

Help them understand the importance of commitment – typically that comes up in my family when we’re driving somewhere that none of us feel like going. Really seize this opportunity when driving around town. Make sure your child puts their screen down and help them engage in conversation. Long trips. Different story. Screens. Vitally important!

This is also a great opportunity to utilize the music that’s playing in the background as conversation starters...whether it’s Christian or secular music. Ask questions like, “What do you think that means or Should we agree with that?” This also provides a little accountability for yourself like should I really be listening to this?

Teach your kids when you (1) Sit in your house (2) when you walk by the way and third, when you

3. Lie Down – or another way to think about this is **at bedtime**. This can be such a meaningful time for families. Seize this opportunity to teach your kids. Bedtime is a very natural time for the parent to become a counselor who listens to the heart of their child. It is a time where you can build intimacy and have meaningful conversations. You can ask questions such as, “What has been on your mind today? Did you hear anything today that made you stop and think that’s not quite right? Did you witness any heated arguments or fights? How are things with your friends?” What are you learning in Scripture right now? These questions can develop into great conversations.

And these conversation don’t have to take place as you’re tucking in your kid or saying your final goodnight. Create a rhythm that works for your family. About 4-5 years ago I made the decision to purchase a hot tub for our family. Not gonna lie, at first it was a bit selfish, and I know it’s a luxury, but it has been an amazing investment for our family. In fact, Griffin, who is 14 years old just affirmed that a few weeks ago when he literally said, “Dad, I think this is the best purchase you’ve ever made.” I agree, but probably for different reasons. Our hot tub has become a place of great family connection and conversation. Almost every night we all go out and have 15-30 minutes of uninterrupted family time. The beauty of it is I don’t have to tell my kids no phones, and they come to Alissa and I and ask, “Is it hot tub time?” You bet it is! Hot tub time has become our family’s time for intentional connection and conversation, just before bedtime

Teach your kids when you (1) Sit in your house (2) when you walk by the way (3) when you lie down, and fourth when you

4. Rise – or another way to think about this is **in the morning**. As each morning begins you are given a new opportunity for a fresh start. Seize this opportunity to teach your kids. Think of yourself as a coach in the morning. You know, prior to the game a coach offers encouraging words, they pump up and fuel their players. They instill purpose. Shouldn’t we seize the opportunity and do this with our own children? Plant important emotional seeds into the heart of

your child every morning. Encourage them as they go out and face the world. Be cognizant of what challenges they are going to encounter and shower them with Scriptures that are full of purpose. Scriptures like Galatians 6:9...which says...

Galatians 6:9, And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Joshua 1:9, Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

And offer up a quick prayer for your child. Out loud. So they can hear. It doesn’t have to be long and in-depth. A simple prayer is great, like “**Lord give my child strength today. Help them shine for you.**” Teach your kids the importance of doing this. Emulate it for them.

Teach your kids when you (1) Sit in your house (2) when you walk by the way (3) when you lie down, and (4) when you rise.

For all of you visual learners, here’s a little chart to help pull all of this together for you.

*****Teaching Times Slide*****

If families seized these opportunities to teach their kids can you imagine the impact? All you have to do is seize those opportunities that are already built into your day. By doing this, your interactions with your children become natural and normal. Spiritual conversations become a part of your routine. You add scripture, prayer, and conversations into your everyday lifestyle. And you play a crucial role in teaching the next generation to become leaders for Christ. All of this can happen if you simply **seize every opportunity to teach your kids**.

And if you’re sitting there wondering how to start, what resources to use, or could use some ideas for conversation starters; we have Family

Resources along the wall right before you enter the children's wing. Erin, Eric, and Robbie update it frequently.

*****Family Resources Slide*****

There are resources for every phase of your child's life. From preschool through graduating high school. There are articles you can take with you, QR codes you can scan to receive things directly on your phone, examples of various parenting books, timelines to help you understand the different stages of a kid's life. You name it, it's there. Go check it out. Take your kids to the play structure and then sneak off to check out the resources. Yep, we were intentional that way.

A second resource you have are the e-mails that Children and Youth ministries send out every week. If you read them you will discover a wealth of information. Erin Jewell, our Children's Director sends out a weekly recap that consists of a memory verse you can work on as well as a recap from the lesson that consists of the Bible **Lesson**, the Bible **Verse**, the Bible **Truth**, and a **Family Action** – something you can do as a family to reinforce what they learned during the weekend.

Students send out a weekly email that informs you of their message topic and text so you can follow-up at home with what they heard at youth group.

Finally, for another resource, let me encourage you to simply open up the Bible with your children. Use it as the ultimate authority and resource in your life. Simply take a small section, read it, talk about it, and pray together. You don't need some flashy thing to help you. Just open God's Word and spend time with your kids.

Use these resources and **seize every opportunity to teach your kids**.

If you desire to raise godly kids in an ungodly world

1. Love the Lord with Complete Devotion
2. Seize Every Opportunity to Teach Your Kids

And thirdly, **Keep the Word in Front of You to Guide Your Way**. Take a look with me back to verses 8 and 9. They read, "**You shall bind them (the words, or Scripture) as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**"

This was a command that some people in Moses' day took literally by attaching little boxes called phylacteries around their wrists and heads, and other boxes called Mezuzah to their doorposts of their homes and entry gates.

*****Phylacteries and Mezuzah Slide*****

Here you can see what these things look like.

But obviously I'm not saying that you should literally wear these things or put them on your house. I don't think a literal application was the intent. Rather it is a way to illustrate God's desire and our need – to **keep the Word in front of you to guide your way**.

Keep the Word the center of your heart. Keep the Word the center of your soul. Keep the Word the center of your might. And you do that when you **Love the Lord with Complete Devotion**. And you do that when you **Seize every opportunity to teach your kids. Keep the Word in front of you to guide your way!**

God provides us with the plan to raise godly kids in an ungodly world. Parents. All you need to do is embrace your role and follow His instruction.

And you might be sitting here this morning feeling a little convicted because you have never done this. Good. Embrace the conviction and start now! Maybe you should be honest with your kids – especially if they're sitting in here with you – Ask them for forgiveness and commit to establishing these routines in your life. I guarantee they'll forgive you and respect you for admitting the truth. Listen they will want to do this with you because they want to spend time with you. They want to become your priority.

Or you might be sitting here feeling convicted because your kids are already out of the house. That's ok. Seize every opportunity you have. Let your kids and grandkids know what the Lord has done in your life. Pass on your spiritual legacy by sharing how God is at work in your life. But grandparents, don't try take on all responsibility to teach your grandkids and in doing so usurp the responsibility from your grandkids' parents. Encourage them to embrace their own responsibilities with their own children. But definitely spend quality time with your grandkids and **seize the opportunity** to talk about the things of the Lord.

Or you might be sitting here and you don't have kids, you're not off the hook either. Get involved and lead the next generation for Christ. They are the future, and you can play a significant role in their lives.

1. Love the Lord with Complete Devotion.
2. Seize Every Opportunity to Teach Your Kids.
3. Keep the Word in Front of You to Guide Your Way.

That's **how to raise godly kids in an ungodly world**.

Let's Pray – Father, thank you for giving us the privilege to train up and teach the next generation. Impress on us our need for you and to love you in a way that expresses our complete devotion to you. Give us the discipline to seize every opportunity to teach our kids, when we're tired, when we'd rather do something else...whenever. Give us the discipline, Lord. And help us to keep your Word in front of us to guide our way. Forgive us when we fail in that. We need your grace. And we thank you for your grace. I love you and pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Announcements:

1. Talk with someone – BSC room
2. Deacon
3. Mother's Day Gift
4. Go see our **Family Ministries Team** in the lobby – run there! Be first and get the good spot.
5. Also, don't forget about **Family Resources**. Go check it out. Find a starting point for you and your family and seize the opportunity!

By way of **benediction** let me read to you **Galatians 6:9** again – one of the morning time verses, **Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

This week may you continue to do good with your children, and others, so in due season they too will love the Lord as you do.

Happy Mother's Day and you are loved!