

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-2 Parenting, Step-Parenting, Grand-Parenting & Mentoring Essentials

LESSON 4: Laying The Foundation. God's Process For Teaching Obedience.

1. Children have felt needs of significance and security.
2. They mostly need to learn obedience.
3. Obedience is a developmental process.
4. You must commit to providing the necessary resources for your child to learn obedience.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NASB77)

⁴" Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

⁵"And 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, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

⁷ and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

⁸" And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

⁹" And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

5. Teachable moments

4. Systematic Instruction

3. Biblical Knowledge

2. Personal Devotions

1. Doctrinal Truth

5. How do you know when you have hit the target?

Answer: Obedience is achieved when your child has transferred his or her primary love, submission and dependency from you to Jesus.

6. Three Characteristics of Righteous Children:

? They make wise decisions

Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

? They keep their commitments

Proverbs 20:6 (NIV)

⁶Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?

? They care genuinely for others John 15:13 (NIV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Discussion Questions:

1. Of the 5 Resources discussed from Deut. 6:4-9, which ones come most naturally for you and how do you do that?
2. Of the same 5 Resources, which ones take the most effort and work for you? What would you need to change to be more effective with providing these resources to your children?
3. Of the 5 Resources, which ones do your children need the most at this time in their lives? What can you start doing to help them grow in these areas?
4. Discuss the three characteristics of righteous children. What do these look like in your family?
5. Update your "Prayer Journal" with requests especially for your children and for lessons you are learning about parenting.
6. Spend the last 10 minutes in prayer together over these issues.