

## FAMILIES INVOLVEMENT IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Introduction: I want to address a problem that not only has hot here, but is a world wide epidemic.

- ❖ The problem exists in our families.
  - **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**, “**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.** <sup>6</sup> “**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.** <sup>7</sup> **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.** <sup>8</sup> **You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** <sup>9</sup> **You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”**
  
- ❖ Every one of us has a responsibility to help young people develop.
  - But has made it clear that parents have been given the ultimate responsibility of spiritually developing their children.
  - Unfortunately, many families are leaving the majority of spiritual teachings to:
    - Our Bible school programs,
    - Youth ministers,
    - And youth group activities.
  
- ❖ All of these resources are good but can’t come close to replacing the impact on parents.
  - We, as parents and family members, must take some time to reevaluate where each of us are as we look at God’s plan for children’s and adults spiritual development.

### I. After our children leave the nests, what effect did have on them to influence them in the way they live their lives.

A. Here’s a staggering fact:

- i. 80% of young people leave the church after they leave home.
- ii. Why is that happening?
  1. Is it a breakdown on minister’s behalf
  2. Or does it go back to the family’s lack of involvement in home bible study?

B. God gives us a blueprint for our families

- i. Families are to protect children
  1. **Proverbs 14:26**, “**In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge.”**
- ii. Provide a place of happiness
  1. **Ecclesiastes 9:9**, “**Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that *is* your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.”**
- iii. Make it a place of for a platform of service to others
  1. **I Corinthians 16:15**, “**I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints”**
- iv. Provide education
  1. **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**, “**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.** <sup>7</sup> **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them**

when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

2. **Isaiah 38:19**, “The living, the living man, he shall praise You, as I *do* this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children.”
3. Family Bible studies encourage the spiritual leader of the home to further the FAMILIES knowledge of the Bible and the commands therein.
  - a. We want all fathers to see the importance of this as their spiritual responsibility.
  - b. All mothers need to realize they play a vital role in seeing that this gets done.
  - c. And single parents this does not leave you out.
    - i. You must sometimes work even harder to make sure the spiritual needs of your children are being met.
    - ii. **Ephesians 6:4**, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
    - iii. **Psalm 119:97-103**, “Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep your word. I have not departed from your judgments, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth”
- v. The Psalmist gives us three tasks as parents
  1. Know the Word of God because it makes you wiser than your enemies
  2. Knowing the Word of God helps me to have more understanding
  3. Knowing the Word of God gives me more insight
- vi. Knowing those things will help us see the importance of our home Family Bible studies

## II. We have a great responsibility set before us.

- A. We as the church have a responsibility in the education of our children
  - i. Bible Classes—Sunday morning and Wednesday night
  - ii. Youth Group
  - iii. KFC Group
  - iv. Men’s Training Class
  - v. Devotionals
  - vi. LAW Group
  - vii. We have purposes in being the Body of Christ
    1. To save the lost through friendship evangelism
      - a. **Mathew 28:18-20**, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.”

- b. **I Corinthians 9:22**, “to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men that* I might by all means save some.”
    - 2. To serve others through ministry
      - a. **Galatians 6:10**, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
      - b. **Mark 10:43-45**, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. <sup>44</sup> And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
    - 3. To become family through deeper fellowship
      - a. **I Corinthians 12:25-26**, “that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.”
      - b. **Hebrews 10:24**, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,”
    - 4. To grow Christians to maturity through discipleship
      - a. **Ephesians 3:17-19**, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— <sup>19</sup> to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
    - 5. And to glorify God through authentic worship and Christian living
      - a. **John 4:23-24**, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
      - b. **Romans 15: 5-6**, “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- B. Let me address this in a different way
- i. Parents, it is your job, duty, and commandment of God that you teach your children to live faithfully.
  - ii. We are living in a time when many parents are neglecting to do this
    - 1. They are in business mode
      - a. You’re outsourcing
      - b. It works great in the business world
      - c. But not so good in the church
    - 2. 500 youth who are members of the churches of Christ were polled
      - a. 89% of the youth had NEVER had a home Bible study—EVER
      - b. 5% said maybe once a week
      - c. 2.6% said every two weeks or so
      - d. 3.7 said every 3 weeks or so
  - iii. Let me ask you some questions:
    - 1. Question #1: Where do your children receive the majority of their spiritual teaching?

2. Question #2: Do you have family devotionals and spiritual discussions on a regular basis?
3. Question #3: Do you take time to teach your children scripture and apply the Bible daily?
4. Question #4: Is the church the primary source of spiritual development for you and your family?
5. Question #5: What role are you going to play in your families' spiritual development?
6. Question #6: What role will you play in the Family Ministry program here at New Johnsonville church of Christ?

❖ **We must get back to the family as the basis of Christian teaching.**

- **Within the church today we are relying on our “ministers” and Bible school teachers to teach our young people the Word of God**
- **This cannot continue as the ONLY WAY our families are getting spiritually fed.**
- **Our “families” are the greatest classroom for spiritual development**
- **And we as the church must make important steps in making and leading the church back to the Biblical model of a Christian home.**

**Friends, it's never too late to start.**

**The choice is yours. Take action today and lead your family to a lifestyle that will incredible rewards.**

**HEAVEN!!!!**

**Will you evaluate your life even now as stand and sing this invitation song?**