

1. We are currently looking at what the Scripture teaches regarding parenting.
2. And in our look so far, we have seen what the greatest need our children have and what were to teach them about God.
3. Tonight I want to continue where we left off last week.
4. So let me have you turn in your Bibles to Deuteronomy chapter 6.
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.
6. As we looked at this passage in our last study, we observed two truths that are paramount in each of our lives as well as our kids: God is one and we are to love Him wholeheartedly.
7. We saw those two truths in verses 4-5 and noted the importance of emphasizing these two truths to our children.
8. The God of the Bible is one, which means there are no others gods and that He is a unity—a tri-unity—three.
9. When we teach our kids about the singularity and tri-unity of God we are laying a foundation that will lead them for the rest of their lives and we are leading them to an understanding of the God of the Bible.
10. Essential to this understanding is the devotion that God requires of us.

11. Verse 5 says, “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
12. This command, as Jesus stated in Matthew 22:37, serves as the greatest of all commands and is the only motive for obedience to God.
13. Loving the Lord with all the heart and soul and strength is placed at the head, as the spiritual principle from which the observance of the commandments was to flow (see also Deut. 11:1; 30:6). It was in love that the fear of the Lord (Deut. 10:12), hearkening to His commandments (Deut. 11:13), and the observance of the whole law (Deut. 11:22), were to be manifested; but love itself was to be shown by walking in all the ways of the Lord (Deut. 11:22; 19:9; 30:16).¹
14. **Deuteronomy 10:12 (NASB77)** ¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to **fear the LORD** your God, to **walk in all His ways** and **love Him**, and to **serve** the LORD your God **with all your heart and with all your soul**.
15. Where true love to God exists in the heart, it will manifest itself in a regard to his will, and in the diligent keeping of his commandments.²

¹Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002). 1:885.

²*The Pulpit Commentary: Deuteronomy*, ed. H. D. M. Spence-Jones (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2004). 119.

16. You will “fear the Lord” and “walk in all His ways” and “serve” Him.
17. We must love the Lord with *all* our hearts by keeping *all* His Word *all* the days of our lives (v. 2). He cannot accept halfhearted worship or obedience (Eph. 6:6; 1 John 5:3).³
18. Notice now the third truth found in verse 6.
19. God wants not only obedience and wholehearted devotion to Him but also for them to internalize the law.
20. In other words, He wants them to *mediate on God’s commands*.

³Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1991). Dt 6:1.

- I. God is One (v.4)
- II. Love God Wholeheartedly (v.5)
- III. Meditate on God's Commands (v.6)

Moses says in verse 6, “*These words*, which I am commanding you today, shall ***be on your heart.***”

What “words”? The “commandments, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you” (v.1). The words of verse 4 that “The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”

The commandments are to be “upon your heart”; that is, the people are to internalize the law, exactly as Jeremiah saw so clearly when he spoke of a new covenant in which YHWH declares: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts” (Jer 31:31–33).⁴

It is to be in one’s constant, conscious reflection⁵ upon the inner man.

Matthew Henry says, “God’s words must be laid up on our heart, that our thoughts may be daily conversant with them and employed about them, and thereby the whole soul may

⁴Duane L. Christensen, *Word Biblical Commentary : Deuteronomy 1-21:9*, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 2002). 143.

⁵Eugene H. Merrill, *Deuteronomy*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001, c1994). 167.

be brought to abide and act under the influence and impression of them.”⁶

Moses gives Israel two reasons for mediating on God’s Word:

A. So That You Will Not Forget the Lord (v.12)

This is the purpose of mediation. **Psalms 119:15-16 (NASB77)** ¹⁵ I will meditate on Thy precepts, And regard Thy ways. ¹⁶ I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.

To mediate means “to discuss or ponder” (KJV Commentary), “chatter” (Augustine) or “to chew the cud” (Thomas Watson). It “is the soul’s chewing” (William Grimshaw) “on a single object of Scripture for a period of time” (Swindoll).

Psalm 119:15-16 says when you “meditate” on God’s “precepts” you will “regard” His “ways.” This will result in delighting in His “statutes” and not forgetting His Word.

Israel was to “impress these words...on [their] heart and on [their] soul; and...bind them as a sign on [their] hand, and they [were to] be as frontals on your forehead (Deut.11:18).

⁶Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996, c1991). Dt 6:4.

This was the means by which they would not forget God. His Word was to occupy their heart and minds 24/7.

God later told Joshua in **Joshua 1:8 (NASB77)** ⁸ "This ***book of the law*** shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall ***meditate on it day and night***, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Paul said in **Philippians 4:8 (NASB77)** ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, ***let your mind dwell on these things.***

The more of God's Word you have internalized for yourself the more effectively you will be able to properly indoctrinate your children in the Scriptures.

Your goal should be to increasingly become like one of the scribes Jesus speaks of in Matthew 13:52, who knows the Scriptures so well that he "brings forth out of his treasure things new and old,"—that is, things he has learned from others and things he has figured out for himself.⁷

The second reason Moses gives for meditating on God's Word is:

⁷ Lou Priolo, Teach Them Diligently, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000). 12.

B. So That You Fear the Lord and Worship Him Only
(vv.13-15)

Moses says in **Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (NASB77)** ¹³
"You shall ***fear only the LORD your God***; and you shall ***worship Him***, and ***swear by His name***. ¹⁴ "***You shall not follow other gods***, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, ¹⁵ for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

When your whole life (inner and outer) is controlled by the Word, you will not forget the Lord but you will fear and worship Him only. You will not worship any other god because you know that the LORD is your God and that He is one! And He is a jealous God who will not share His glory with any other.

There are 6 effects to this:

When God's Word is on your heart not only will you not forget the Lord but...

1. You will worship the one and true God
 - a) **Acts 4:12 (NASB77)** ¹² "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."
 - b) **John 14:6 (NASB77)** ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

2. You will prolong your days

a) **Deuteronomy 32:47 (NASB77)** ⁴⁷ "For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you shall prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess."

b) **Proverbs 3:1-2 (NASB77)** ¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; ² For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.

3. You will find favor and good repute with God and man

Proverbs 3:4 (NASB77) ⁴ So you will find favor and good repute (reputation or standing) in the sight of God and man.

4. Your paths will be straight causing you not to stumble

a) **Psalms 37:30-31 (NASB77)** ³⁰ The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. ³¹ The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.

b) **Psalms 119:11 (NASB77)** ¹¹ Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.

5. You will delight to do God's will

Psalms 40:8 (NASB77) ⁸ "I delight to do Thy will,
O my God; Thy Law is within my heart."

6. You will be Spirit-filled (Col.3:16; Eph.5:18)

These are the reasons you should give your kids
for loving God with their entire being.

All of these truths start with you. They must be internalized
and practiced before you can do what verses 7-9 says in
Deuteronomy 6.

You must believe that God is one. You must love Him
wholeheartedly. You must meditate on God's Word, then...

IV. You Must Diligently Teach God's Commands to Your Children (vv.7-9)

Moses says in **Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (NASB77)** 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.

God's people were responsible to meditate on **these
commandments**, to keep them in their **hearts**. This
enabled them to understand the Law and to apply it

correctly. Then the parents were in a position to **impress them on** their children's hearts also.⁸

A. You Must Teach Diligently (v.7)

“You shall teach them diligently.”

In his book, *Back to the Blackboard*, Jay Adams unpacks the meaning of the most significant verb in this verse.

The word translated ‘impress deeply’ or ‘teach them diligently’ in the Berkley version is a single Hebrew verb that means to “say something twice” (it is related to the number two). Then, it comes to mean “say it again” or “repeat.” It is used of sharpening a sword because in the whetting process the blade is *repeatedly* struck or rubbed against the honing stone...The second factor in the word moves away from the idea of repetition as merely rote learning, to the idea of apply truth to situation after situation to which it corresponds. Surely, one must learn the truth, but repeatedly he must show its application to everyday, real life circumstances. Truth must be integrated with life.⁹

⁸John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-c1985). 1:274.

⁹ Jay E. Adams, *Back to the Blackboard*, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 1982).

Lou Priolo comments on this by saying, “Children must be taught how the Scriptures relate to every area of life. The goal is not simply to teach the story of David and Goliath but also to explain how the narrative relates to the child’s relationship with God, his parents, siblings, and schoolmates. You must teach not only the interpretation of each passage but also teach its application.¹⁰

1. This command was first mentioned in **Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NASB77)** ⁹ "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. ¹⁰ "*Remember* the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, **and that they may teach their children.**'
2. It was later repeated in Deuteronomy 6:7-9 and in **Deuteronomy 11:19 (NASB77)** ¹⁹ "**And you shall teach them to your sons**, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.
3. **Psalms 78:4-8 (NASB77)** ⁴ We will not conceal them from their children, But **tell to the**

¹⁰ Lou Priolo, Teach Them Diligently, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000). 15.

generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. ⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, **That they should teach them to their children,** ⁶ That the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children, ⁷ That they should put their confidence in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments, ⁸ And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

4. **Ephesians 6:4 (NASB77)** ⁴ And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but **bring them up** in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
5. **2 Timothy 3:15 (NASB77)** ¹⁵ And that **from childhood** you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
6. God's Word is to be spoken before kings. **Psalms 40:9-10 (NASB77)** ⁹ I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O LORD, Thou knowest. ¹⁰ I have not hidden Thy righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation; I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation.

7. God's Word is to be spoken to all nations.
Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB77) ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

8. God's Word is to be taught to our kids

Lou Priolo says, "Teaching the Bible to your children is non-optional. You have been given the responsibility to indoctrinate your children with Scripture. The question is not whether or not you are going to teach God's Word to them, but whether or not you are going to obey God's Word yourself. No matter what you believe your parental job description entails, nothing else you do to, for, or with them is more important than this."¹¹

Next, Moses says they are to...

B. You Must Teach Constantly (vv.7-9)

This was not just in a formal setting but also "when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

¹¹ Lou Priolo, Teach Them Diligently, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000). 14.

They were to be enforced upon the children, talked of at home and by the way, in the evening on lying down and in the morning on rising up, i.e., everywhere and at all times.¹²

In other words, the commandments were to be the subject of conversation, both inside and outside the home, from the beginning of the day to its end.¹³

The phrase “frontals on your forehead” was taken so literally that the Jews that later in Jewish history, the people tied phylacteries (boxes containing these verses) to their hands and foreheads with thongs of leather.¹⁴

They were also commanded to “write them on the doorposts of your house” as well, but they eventually adopted the custom of writing Exodus 13:1–10, 11–16; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; 11:13–21 on parchment and putting them in a reed or cylinder that they then fixed

¹²Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2002). 1:885.

¹³John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Dt 6:7.

¹⁴John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Dt 6:8.

to the right-hand doorpost of every room in the house.¹⁵

In our first message in this series, I shared with you what Lou Priolo refers to as teaching in the milieu. He says, “God wants you to teach and apply the Scriptures to your children in all kinds of places and in all types of circumstances, whenever and wherever life takes you. You are to teach in the milieu of life, addressing from the Scriptures the actual situations your children are facing morning, noon, and night. In other words, you are to discuss with your children the relevancy of Scripture not only to all of life’s situations, but while you and they are actually in the midst of those situations. Milieu (lit. middle) is a French word that means environment or setting or surroundings. While they are in the middle of life’s circumstances, or when they are surrounded by them, is the best time to teach and apply the Scriptures to your kids.¹⁶

Let me give you some things you must constantly teach your kids:

1. Teach them to fear God

¹⁵James M. Freeman and Harold J. Chadwick, *Manners & Customs of the Bible*, Rev. ed.]. (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1998). 170.

¹⁶ Lou Priolo, *Teach Them Diligently*, (Woodruff, SC: Timeless Texts, 2000). 16.

- a) **Proverbs 1:7 (NASB77)** ⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- b) **Proverbs 9:10 (NASB77)** ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

“Fear” has two aspects. The first is *reverence*. It is a sacred awe of God’s utter holiness. It involves the kind of respect and veneration that results in fear in the presence of such absolute majesty.

The second aspect is *fear of God’s displeasure*. Genuine faith acknowledges God’s right to chasten, His right to punish, and His right to judge. Therefore, in the presence of God, true wisdom trembles with a holy, healthy sense of terror and apprehension. *Fear* is the right word for it. The deeper our sense of our own guilt, the more profound should be our dread of God’s displeasure.

When you teach your children about God, be sure to give them a full appreciation of *all* His attributes. Children need to know, even from the earliest age, that God is angry with the

wicked, and He *will* punish evildoers (Psalm 7:11–13).¹⁷

2. Teach them to guard their minds

- a) **Proverbs 4:23 (NASB77)** ²³ Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

Don't just shield them from external evil influences; teach them to be wise and discerning. Teach them how to cultivate wholesome thoughts.

- b) **Philippians 4:8 (NASB77)** ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

3. Teach them to obey their parents

- a) The first direct appeal Solomon makes to his son in the Book of Proverbs is found in **Proverbs 1:8 (NASB77)** ⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching.

¹⁷John MacArthur, *Successful Christian Parenting : Raising Your Child With Care, Compassion, and Common Sense* (Bedford, Tex.: Word Pub., 1998). 79.

That same theme runs throughout the book.

- b) In **Proverbs 4:1-4 (NASB77)** ¹Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding, ²For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. ³When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, ⁴Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live;

- c) In **Proverbs 6:20-23 (NASB77)** ²⁰My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother; ²¹Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. ²²When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. ²³For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.

This is one of the most basic and obvious responsibilities of parenthood.

If we are going to raise a generation of faithful children to live righteous lives, they must begin by learning to obey their parents.

- 4. Teach them to choose their friends wisely

- a) **Proverbs 13:20 (NASB77)** ²⁰ He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.
 - b) **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB77)** ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
 - c) Solomon taught his son in **Proverbs 1:10-18 (NASB77)** ¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. ¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait for blood, Let us ambush the innocent without cause; ¹² Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit; ¹³ We shall find all *kinds* of precious wealth, We shall fill our houses with spoil; ¹⁴ Throw in your lot with us, We shall all have one purse," ¹⁵ My son, do not walk in the way with them. Keep your feet from their path, ¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed blood. ¹⁷ Indeed, it is useless to spread the net In the eyes of any bird; ¹⁸ But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives.
5. Teach them to control their lusts
- 2 Timothy 2:22 (NASB77)** ²² Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.
6. Teach them to watch their words

Proverbs 4:24 (NASB77) ²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put devious lips far from you.

Speak truth. Say what edifies, not what injures others. And keep your words pure.

7. Teach them to work hard at whatever they do

a) **Proverbs 6:6-8 (NASB77)** ⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, ⁷ Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, ⁸ Prepares her food in the summer, *And* gathers her provision in the harvest.

b) **Proverbs 22:29 (NASB77)** ²⁹ Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men.

8. Teach them to manage their money

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NASB77) ⁹ Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

9. Teach them to love their neighbors

a) **Proverbs 3:27-29 (NASB77)** ²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do *it*. ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it*," When you have

it with you. ²⁹ Do not devise harm against your neighbor, While he lives in security beside you.

b) **Leviticus 19:18 (NASB77)** ¹⁸ You shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

CONCLUSION

1. We'll as you can see we have a lot of work to do in teaching our kids.
2. But we must first remember that it starts with us as parents.
3. We are to believe in the One Triune God, love Him with our entire being, meditate on His Word so that we do not forget Him and so that we will fear and worship Him. And we are to diligently teach this to our children.
4. Is this the kind of foundation you're laying in your home?
5. If not, you need to start here tonight.
6. Survey your view of God.
7. Do you see Him as the only God who exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and do you love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
8. If not, I want to call you to Him tonight by encouraging you to turn from your sin and surrender your life to Him.

9. **Luke 9:23-24 (NASB77)** ²³ And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

10. **Romans 10:9-10 (NASB77)** ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

11. Let's pray.