

## Did God Really Say? The Purpose of Parenting: Identifying and Avoiding the Hidden Dangers Deuteronomy 6

### INTRODUCTION:

Well...we wrap up this morning our study under the banner “**Did God Really Say?**” What’s at stake is the issue of authority. **Who or what has the last or ultimate say in what you believe and how you behave?** Is your (is my) source of authority within me or outside of me? **Who or what gets to set the rules by which I live by and interact with others in this world?**

For this morning, we focus our attention on **The Purpose of Parenting: Identifying and Avoiding the Hidden Dangers.**

Here’s today’s main point: **A biblical worldview of parenting recognizes that children are a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord (Psalm 127:3) and parents are \_\_\_\_\_ for passing on what they know about the Lord, His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and His \_\_\_\_\_ to the next generation so that they come to \_\_\_\_\_ (believe) in Him (Psalm 78:7). A biblical worldview of parenting not only places importance in rearing children that become productive \_\_\_\_\_ of society and are ready for life in general, but it also places ultimate importance in preparing them for \_\_\_\_\_. The goal is not to only prepare them for \_\_\_\_\_ day but ultimately for \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 17:31; Revelation 20: 11-15).**

Writing many, many years ago, Moses addressed many families as they prepared to possess the land that God had promised them and reminded them to love God fervently, teach their children diligently and live in this world carefully.

Please turn in your Bible to Deut 6:1-9. The verses that we have before us are part of a chapter and this chapter is part of a larger story. Moses is not about to take a sabbatical; he's not going on a vacation. It's much more serious than that.

**Moses is about to die.** He has led Israel for many years, but he's now preparing for his death, and thinking about Israel's future. Before he dies, he gives a series of sermons to Israel. These sermons are all found in what we call the book of Deuteronomy. ***We're going to see that Moses gives a command to know God in a way that transforms the whole of our lives and that deals with our greatest temptations, so that the next generation will experience God as well.*** Moses highlights dangers that we face as we strive to pass valuable information...spiritual truths...from one generation to the next.

### **I. Beware of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4-6)**

The most important requirement for raising godly children and grandchildren is for you to have personal reality with God. ***You communicate what you are.*** You cannot pass on to your children what you do not possess.

**The great goal of knowing God through His Word is a life of obedience motivated by God’s great love for us as seen in His plan of redemption at the cross. The idea is to love God \_\_\_\_\_; this is how we avoid the danger of \_\_\_\_\_.**

## II. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in training your children \_\_\_\_\_

(6:7-9, 20-25)

God instructs parents to be intentional in the spiritual development of their children. The only way to train your children in the way of the Lord is to make Him the center of your home.

The phrase **“teach them diligently”** in Hebrew **means literally to sharpen**. It may have the idea of repetition. Your teaching should penetrate your child deeply so that it has an effect on him or her (the NIV translates it **“impress”**). You come at it from every angle, at all times, and in every situation (6:7). The Hebrews came to take verses 8 and 9 literally. But the idea rather is that God’s commandments are central in your life so that you’re thinking about them every time you turn around. As we’ve seen, this is an overflow of your own walk with God. **If God’s Word is on your heart continually, then you’ll be talking about it constantly with your kids.**

## III. Be sure to live \_\_\_\_\_ in this world (6:10-19)

In these verses, Moses is very realistic about the fact that we will be tempted to forget God in our lives. God warned Israel that material prosperity is seductive. It can make us think that these things are the source of joy in our lives. We can enjoy the stuff of the world so much that we compromise our values so we can have more of that stuff. It is easy to worship stuff rather than the Creator.

**And that's not the only danger they face.** They're going to be tempted by other gods, according to verse 14. And ironically, they're going to be tempted not only by abundance but by times of suffering.

Today we could update this and say that some of us are going to be tempted because we've got the house with the double garage, as well as a high-definition TV and money in the bank. But some of us are going to be tempted by the bad diagnosis at the doctor's office, or the period of unemployment we weren't expecting. We're also going to be tempted by all the gods that people around us worship - power, sex, money, pleasure. In the middle of all of these temptations, Moses warns us to not forget God. **Forgetting is a constant problem.** At every turn we're tempted to forget God and abandon the first and most important commandment.

**Is there a solution to this danger?** Yes! I point out two safeguards from these verses:

1. **Continually examine yourself (6:12).**

2. **Constantly focus on pleasing God (6:18).**

## **CONCLUSION**

What can we take with us this morning? Please allow me to share some practical applications and then some needed reminders.

### **Practical applications:**

1. Our overall goal is for our children to be \_\_\_\_\_ in love for God and for others as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Train your children in life's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Teach your children to \_\_\_\_\_ you from their youngest ages through proper \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ your children as unique human beings.
5. Major on the \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Here are some needed reminders:***

1. You can't undo the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is never too \_\_\_\_\_ to start doing what is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Trust the power of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Remember that relationships aren't fixed with \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Don't forget about the \_\_\_\_\_ grace and mercy of God.

***Being a parent is a wonderful blessing. As parents, it is our job to pass the baton of faith to the next generation. It is a most important job. But let's also remember that in addition to being a sober responsibility, it is also a tremendous, rewarding, and most satisfying privilege.***

***May God grant parents the needed grace and courage to prepare their children for the here and now and for eternity.***