

# The Heritage of God

## Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Life Group Discussion – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Children are a gift from God. They do not belong to us, rather, they belong to the Lord. We are simply stewards of our children.

Psalm 127:3 says, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.” Children are a heritage from the LORD.

Today’s passage begins with the phrase “Hear, O Israel” (v. 4). The word “hear” in Hebrew is *shema*, which means to listen carefully. This word is foundational to Jewish teaching.

**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. (Deut. 6:7)**

So, what are we suppose to teach our children diligently?

### 1. We must teach the purpose of life.

In our life, we encounter things that are temporary and things that are eternal. Luke 16 talks about the story of the rich man and Lazarus. In this parable, the rich man focuses on temporary wealth while Lazarus focuses on things that are eternal. Lazarus does not have anything in his possession, but he is still lives with hope, by looking at the things that are eternal rather than temporary. We must teach our children to treasure things that are eternal.

### 2. We must teach God’s word.

There is nothing more important than the spiritual development of your child. No how successful your child turns out to be in this world, if they walk away from their faith, our parenting would be considered a failure. At the end of their life, most parents tell their children to “follow Christ” as a final will. There is nothing more important than our children having faith in Jesus Christ.

There are two things we must especially highlight. We must teach our children the importance of

Sunday attendance and tithing. Through Sunday worship, we can guard our hearts. Tithing frees us from becoming slaves to greed.

In order for our children to walk in faith, we must first walk in faith as parents. If we worry about what to eat or wear as parents, our children will worry about the same things. Our worries become their worries. Therefore, we must set an example for them by living steadfast life in faith.

3. We must raise our children with constant love and care.

We love our children. However, there are times we must discipline them and guide them in truth. People, by nature, are sinful. Therefore, while we should display our love for them, we must also correct them in love when they walk in sin.

**Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (Prov. 13:24).**

Eli did not discipline his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. He saw that they were walking in sin, yet, did not do anything about it. As a result, when Israel was fighting the Philistines, Hophni and Phinehas lost the Ark of the Covenant and died on the battlefield. When Eli hears this sad news, he falls from his chair, breaks his neck, and dies. While we should love our children, we should also discipline them and guide them in truth.

**Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart. (Prov. 29:17)**

### 4. We must set clear guidelines for our children.

In our parenting, we must have clear guidelines and rules. These rules can slightly differ from person to person. However, we must teach our children basic morals, values, laws, and principles in life.

Many parents focus on strategies rather than honesty and faithfulness when it comes to parenting. However, this could easily mislead our

children. If we really love our parents, we train them to be honest and pure.

We must rebuke them when they are being lazy. The reason Jesus rebuke the servant who kept the one talent in the ground is because he was “wicked and lazy.”

God has given us children as a heritage. He commands us to raise them in faith. We are responsible for our child’s faith. We must teach them how to understand and obey the Bible.

Pastor Dongho Kim wrote in his book, “We often emphasize the blessing of having parents, but we must remember that children are a blessing as well.”

## Sharing -----

1. Children are a heritage from God and we must raise them in faith through God’s word. Share how you are raising child. Or share if you know anyone who faithfully lived out the command of Deuteronomy 6 in your life.
2. If your children are still young, share how you want them to grow up in faith. If your children are all grown ups, share how would have raised your children differently in light o f today’s passage. If you have grandchildren, share how you want them to grow in faith.