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## FIVE THINGS

God commands parents and adults to teach children (and grandchildren) the truth about Him. Deuteronomy 6 encourages us, "***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 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.***"

Life is full of teachable moments. Often, the challenge for adults is to take time to take advantage of them, and use them to teach children the important truths that will guide them for the rest of their lives. That's why things like Vacation Bible School and Sunday School and Awana and Confirmation are so important. Other excellent outlets for kids include the indoor bike park at Linn Grove (Bikes-Boards-Blades 363-1980), The Dream Center of Spencer (580-4732) and The Bridge of Storm Lake (213-0195).

But you need to make full use of informal teaching opportunities too, at home and on the go. Fact is, you never stop learning or teaching. Question is, just what are you learning or teaching? J.C. Ryle, acclaimed preacher of yesteryear, lists five essentials for children of ALL ages...

- 1) - Teach children to love Jesus as Lord and Savior. Obviously, narratives from the Bible provide ample opportunity, and there are plenty of resources to help. More important, adults need to SHOW children how to love the Lord. Your example speaks louder than words. The most powerful teaching puts all three learning modes in action: hearing (auditory), seeing (visual), and hands on (kinetic).
- 2) - Teach children to watch over their souls. Teach them to understand how their choices have consequences. This means helping them learn from their inevitable mistakes. And this means helping them see how YOU learn from your mistakes. The "Love & Logic" workshop provides excellent tools for helping children make good choices. Two of the best books are "[Shepherding a Child's Heart](#)" by Tedd Tripp and "[Age of Opportunity](#)" by Paul Tripp. They help parents help children understand what's going on in their hearts and minds when they disobey or pursue selfish unhealthy choices - and how God's grace and power can transform their hearts and minds according to His truth.
- 3) - Train children to know the Bible. Children need to know the Bible IS God's Word, that He wrote it especially for you so you can know what God wants you to know. Since God wrote it, there are no errors or contradictions, though there are mysteries and profound teachings. Use the "teaching tractor" in 2 Timothy 3:17 to show them how the Bible, a) Teaches what is true, according to God's unchanging holy character; b) Reproves when you're wrong and go against God's character; c) Corrects when you get off track from following the world, the flesh, and the devil instead of God's Word; d) Trains you in Right living, through the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells everyone who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Children need to see the adults in their lives reading the Bible, talking about it, and living it out daily.
- 4) - Train children to develop a habit of prayer. Again, the best way is to show & tell by your own example. Prayer is more than saying grace at meals. It is a two-way conversation with God, listening to Him as well as telling Him your thanks and requests and all that's on your heart and mind. Prayer gets your thinking in sync with His, so that you want what He wants, and trust Him to work it out in His time.
- 5) - Train children to love the church. Again, show & tell them about the fun of fellowship with God's people, the joy of corporate worship, and the significance of baptism and communion. They learn from you how to grow together in community, and how to take their places of responsibility to show and tell and train others too.

As Deuteronomy 6 shows, these five essentials engage the whole person - heart and soul and mind and will, to love the Lord and His Word - and to live your life by His power within you. As you do, you find deep personal fulfillment as you also help fulfill your Creator's purpose for the people He made in His own image. If you don't do this, you'll find that you've created children in your own disobedient image.

So the choice is yours. I pray you'll choose the way of abundant life in Jesus! Happy teaching!