

October 18, 2009
2 Kings 5
Pastor David Jebaratnam

MENTORING OUR CHILDREN

Reminder: The purpose of the follow up questions is not simply to rehash the sermon. Explore the implications of sermon in greater detail. Look at auxiliary passages to see how they bear on the topic. Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions, but try to discuss some in each category. The goal is to stimulate discussion based on the sermon.

GETTING TO KNOW ME

- Describe your own spiritual upbringing. How intentional was your spiritual training during childhood? Adolescence? Adulthood?
- How is the faith walk of your children or grandchildren? Last week Pastor Jay taught, “You teach what you know and you reproduce what you are.” What is it about your faith commitment that (1) takes root in the lives of the children and grandchildren walking in faith? or (2) does not take root in the lives of the children and grandchildren not walking in faith?

INTO THE BIBLE

- React to the statement, “Parents have the primary responsibility to mentor and disciple their children.” (see Deut. 6:4-8). Why have even Christian parents delegated this responsibility to churches and schools?
- React to the statement, “In an increasingly secular world, our children not only need to know *what* to believe, but also *why* they believe; they need to not only *live* God’s Word, but also *defend* God’s Word.”
- Read Luke 2:52. Note Jesus’ growth in wisdom (intellectual), stature (physical), favor w/God (spiritual), and favor w/men (social/emotional). What are you doing to help your children grow in these areas? Any areas you overemphasize? Underemphasize? How can you bring more balance?
- What does Psalm 127 teach about family life? What do the three metaphors—gift, reward, and arrow—teach us about children?
- Read Proverbs 22:6. The word *in* means “in keeping with,” or the way he is *bent*. Discuss, “God has created every child with unique traits causing them to give more easily in one direction than another...A reminder motivates [some children], and others only respond after a threat. If you have more than one child, you know that what works with one may have no effect on the other. This does not mean that children should not be trained in God’s way. It does mean you will find less resistance when you apply an individualized strategy for each personality style.” (David and Elaine Atchinson, *Shaping the Next Generation*, page 119)

APPLICATION

- As you reflect on this week’s sermon and Life Group study:
 - What is one area about your own faith that you would commit to examine and work on?
 - What is one area about your parenting or grand-parenting that you would commit to examine and work on?
- What is one area that you would like others to pray for you this week?

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