

A Biblical Vision of Family Discipleship

Opening Question: What is your dream for your children?

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25 and Proverbs 22:6.

Background:

- It has been 40 years since the Exodus when God delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. After decades of wandering in the wilderness, a new generation is ready to inherit their new homeland in Canaan. This is the final speech of Moses, the great liberator of his people.
- Headbands ("*frontlets*") and armbands were common accessories in the ancient world. The Israelites would attach to these bands tiny boxes containing miniature scrolls with Hebrew verses written on them.
- A proverb is not a hard-and-fast rule or a promise about how the universe works. It is rather a short sentence drawn from long experience, a general truth that must be reflected upon and applied with discernment to the various situations of our lives.

Explore Together:

1. What images, words, or phrases stand out to you? Why?
2. In light of Deuteronomy 6, what is God's primary instruction for his people?
3. According to this passage, what benefits are there for clinging to God's word and ways? How does our commitment to God impact our kids?
4. "*Teach them diligently to your children*" — Moses invites us to both show by our actions and tell with our words. What ideas does he offer parents? How might this advice translate to our lives today?
5. What do you understand the proverb to mean? How might you initiate your child on their path and help them take their first steps into their purpose?

Apply It: Spend some time praying for your kids, dedicating them to God. Ask for God's wisdom, creativity, and love as we press into the adventure and high calling of discipling our children.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25 (ESV)

1 "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 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. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates...

20 "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV) - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

- **"train up"** - (Hebrew, *chanak*): literally "to dedicate", "to devote to God", "to initiate someone on their path", "to inaugurate something in its purpose"