Teach Them Well – October 12, 2014

Introduction:

As you all know, I have been a teacher for quite some time and a father of three. Over the years I have taught from elementary to adult. My specialty was secondary education, students in middle school and high school. These years are really turbulent for kids. Let me share some startling statistics with you that I came across in the book “Right From Wrong” written in 1994 by Josh McDowell.

* Teen pregnancy has increased over 500% in the past 30 years
* Suicide among young people has jumped 300% in the same time period

In Korea, youths have to deal with high stress levels, problems with bullying and the highest suicide rates in the developed world. This, my brothers and sisters is the world we live in. It is a place where children will have to make choices and face the consequences of a value system made by a broken world. As a father, as a preacher, and as a teacher I worry about what our children will face growing up in today’s society. What can we do? How can we pass healthy values on to our children? How can we give them the tools they need to make right choices? The answer is in the word of God. Found in Deuteronomy 6:1 – 9, we are given a model on how we can pass our faith and values to our children.

Step 1: Give them your time

* Build a relationship – Children long for relationships and to be loved. In today’s world children not only need quality time with adults but also quantity time. We need to slow down as grown-ups and give kids the gift of our time. We lived in a messed up world where relationships suffer because not enough time is put in.
* v.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.
* In other words, God wants us to teach our children about his truths every chance we get when with our kids.

Step 2: Give them an example

* Here we look at verses 5 and 6 – You shall love the LORD your God withal your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words I command you today shall be on your heart.
* Kids watch you more than you know. Children imitate parents and grown-ups they admire.
* We have to lead by example so children can see biblical values modeled in our lives. I can be how you speak to others, how love and respect are seen in a marriage, what a healthy prayer life looks like and the list goes on.
* You want your kids to pray? Let them see you praying every day and then go and pray with them. You want them to read the Bible? Read yours and read theirs with them.

Step 3: Give them the truth

* This means teaching our children God’s word.
* Look at verse 7 again. We are to be diligent, consistent in guiding and teaching them. It is a commitment to them based on our relationship with them and teaching them the kingdom’s rules.
* Let what you teach them be firmly grounded in God’s truth.
* In the past, parents spent most of the days with their children and were able to teach them. But these days, time together seems to be in short supply due to overbooked schedules either by the children or the adults. Grab those moments to spend time together.

Conclusion:

So what’s on your heart today? Is it God’s word? Be solid in your faith and teach it to the little ones that will one day sit where you are now. If you have children, after church today I don’t want you to ask them if they had fun at Sunday school. Instead, I want you to ask them what they learned about the Lord. Have a teachable moment with them.

Tonight, before you go to bed, read God’s Word together. Why not read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 with your family and talk about it with one another? If we don’t give it to them, what will the world give to them? Remember, if we don’t teach our children to follow the Lord, the world will teach them not to.

2 Thess. 3:16, 18

16Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

18The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.