

LIVE IT OUT DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

Video ... Wise Man Built his House ... 1:55

I don't know a whole lot about building ... and I certainly do not have a degree in architecture ... but there is one thing I know ... you don't build a house on the sand. Sand shifts and the house comes tumbling down. What you build on determines how well you will stand!

The same is true in what you build your family on. If you build it on a soft foundation that is constantly changing ... like Postmodernism ... then your family is going to fall. But if you build your family upon the rock ... it will stand. That does not mean that it won't have storms to face ... or as the song puts it ... floods to deal with. But it does mean that if you don't build that family on the rock ... it simply does not have a chance.

The rock who we need to build our families on is none other than Jesus Christ. You build on Him and the family stands ... you build on anything else and it falls.

Turn with me this morning to **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9**. This passage clearly tells us that it is absolutely necessary to lay right foundation and then pass that foundation on to our children. Let's look at the text ... ⁴ **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.** ⁵ **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** ⁶ **These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.** ⁷ **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.** ⁸ **Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.** ⁹ **Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**

You want your house to stand all the storms and floods of life? Then build on the rock ... not just for your sake ... but for your whole family's sake!

And you not only build that house on the Rock for you to be able to withstand whatever comes your way. You do it also for your children.

And by the way ... no one else can do this for you! It is your responsibility to see to it that your family is built on the rock! You cannot send your kids off to church to learn how a home needs to be built on Biblical principles and then have them come home and live in a house that is on shifting sand and expect them to live their lives out in a holy way!

When I was in Youth Ministry there was a family that had two girls. They were extremely lax in the way they allowed their girls to live. For example: They would allow boys to come over and visit them when the parents were not going to be home ... and that started when the girls were in Junior High. By the time the girls were in high school their reputation was horrible. The parents wanted to blame me ... after all ... I was their youth minister.

Friends ... that is not the way it works! Building your family on a solid foundation begins at home.

So how do we build a solid foundation for our families? It begins with you!

First ...

1... YOU MUST HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

We cannot give our kids what we do not have myself. If we are going to pass on a spiritual foundation to our children ... we have to be spiritually grounded ourselves. We have to have our lives built on the rock. **We teach what we know ... but we reproduce what we are.**

Moses said in **DEUTERONOMY 6:5** ... **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** For our families to love God that way ... It has to begin with us! We have to be loving God with all our heart and souls and strength!

This **do as I say not as I do** does not work in spiritual construction. We have to be what we want our kids to be spiritually.

Dr. James Dobson says: **By the time our children are 5 years of age they have already bought into our spiritual value system. And for the next 7 years (5-12) is the most important years to model for them what you want from them ...or for them to be.**

So here is the question: What are your children seeing in you? What spiritual value system have they bought into? Moms and Dads ... what are you passing on to your children. And not only your children but also your nieces and nephews and grandchildren and your neighbors kids. Do they see that Christ is Number One in your life. Or do you show them that other things are more important to you than God.

Is Jesus Christ supreme worth to you? I am here to tell you that if you are choosing to stay in bed on Sunday Morning rather than being in Church worshipping Him .. then He is not supreme worth to you. I am also here to tell you that if you don't spend time reading your Bible or praying ... then He is not supreme worth to you. *And the standard excuse is ... but I don't have time. IF you don't have time for God then He is not supreme worth to you.*

What would your 6 – 8 – 12 – 18 year old say is supreme worth to you? Would they dare say that God is? OR would it be work ... or pleasure ... or something else? Go home and ask them. See what it is that they see you building your foundation on. Our children learn from us what is important in life.

Our kids usually turn out to be like we are! Watch this short video with me ... [Dadieostatis ... Progressive Insurance ... 30 Seconds](#)

Our kids have a tendency to become what we are.

- Is your kid or grandkid a worrier ... wonder where they got that?
- Is your kid or grandkid a talker ... wonder where they got that?
- Does your kid seek to be holy ... wonder where they got that?

Have you ever heard this one ... “Well, Mom, Dad doesn't have to go to church ... why do I?”

In order for you to pass on to your children a life built on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ ... yours has to be built on Jesus Christ.

2... YOU MUST TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS ON A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION TO YOUR CHILDREN.

The second part of building a solid foundation for our children is to tell them about it. Don't rely on osmosis to get the job done. Yes, they will pick up your values by just being around you ... but don't rely solely on that. Look at **VERSES 6-7 ...** ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Teach your kids truth. Teach them the Bible. You notice God did not say to let the Sunday School Teacher do it. He didn't even say let the babysitter do it. You do it! The others will help but it is primarily your responsibility.

Let me give you five ways to teach your children to love God and build their lives on Him as their foundation:

- 1 ... MODEL IT.** I don't want to say much more on this because I have already hit it pretty heavily ... but your lifestyle is what your children pick up on more than what you say. Your life is their Bible when they are little. If you model that God is priority ... they will learn that. If you model that God is something you fit in if there is not anything else going on that you would rather do ... then they will learn that.
- 2 ... BE CONSISTENT WITH IT. VERSE 7 ...** ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Don't be a Sunday Morning Christian. Don't come in so holy and pure on Sunday morning ... looking like you just stepped out of

heaven itself and then live like you are from Hell throughout the week. I just don't know why we think that our children don't pick up on that. If we live like that we are teaching them that Christianity is just something that you fake ... it is not for real. Live Monday through Saturday as if it is Sunday Morning. Be consistent with your Christian lifestyle.

- 3 ... PLAN IT.** When are you going to teach your kids about God? And here I am talking about not modeling it with your lifestyle .. that is all the time. I am talking about when you are going to spend time telling them about Jesus. Before they go to bed? When they get up in the morning and you are sitting around the breakfast table? Plan a time each day that you can talk about God. We take time to plan for everything else in their lives. We take time to run them to all their practices and games and recitals and dances and so on. We need to also plan time to teach them about the solid rock.

Another part of this planning thing is to be sure you make your other plans around worship instead of in place of worship. If your children see you let worship take second seat then they pick up where God really fits in your life.

- 4 ... VISUALIZE IT. DEUTERONOMY 6:8-9 ...** ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Let your children see things in your house that indicates your faith.

If we were to walk into your house unexpected this week ... what would we see? Would we see nasty magazines on the coffee table ... or ... your Bible? Would we see pictures that indicate your faith? Pictures of Christ?

There was an experiment conducted where people put a picture of Jesus above the crib of a new born baby and left it there until the child was old enough to sleep in a normal bed. The child grew to love

Christ at an abnormally early age. He visualized Jesus and it left a deep impression on his soul.

What does your children see in your home? It leaves a deeper impression than you realize.

5 ... TELL IT. You have got to spend time telling your children about Jesus. All the other things are important ... but the bottom line is that you have to verbalize the gospel story to them. They have to hear you talk about it. They need to know why you believe so strongly in this person called Jesus Christ. They have to hear you say that He is everything to you. They need to hear it from you.

CONCLUSION:

Approximately 50 years after Moses wrote **DEUTERONOMY 6** the Israelite people were in the Promised Land. He had told them how important it was to pass on the truths of God to their children.

JUDGES 2:7 talks about the generation that he told this to. It says that they were a generation that **knew the Lord and knew his works.**

JUDGES 2:8-10 talks about the generation that followed them ... their children. It says about them ... **they knew the Lord and knew about his works.**

JUDGES 2:10-11 talks about the next generation ... the grandchildren of the generation Moses talked to. It says about them ... **they did not know the Lord and they did not know about his works.**

IF we do not choose to build our family house on the rock ... it will erode ... it will shift ... and it will fall. Live out your relationship with God. And don't only live it out ... pass it on to your family. Their souls depend on it.