

Leading Your Family Toward God

Joshua 24:15

We'll start today a series of lessons intended to prepare us for the new year and challenging us to improve our leadership, ministry, and devotion to God.

We start with leadership – specifically, leadership in the family.

Here is a great starter verse for us from Joshua.

¹⁵“And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”

That really exemplifies the leadership that we're talking about today.

Let's get some instruction from Moses. Remember back in Deuteronomy after God had codified their religion (Decalogue in Deut. 5), He then said:

Deut. 6:4-9 – “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; ⁷and you shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up. ⁸And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹“And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

I believe these verses and others we will look at today are a clear call for us as parents to lead our families toward Christ.

I. Define “Toward God”

Holiness

1 Pet 1:14-16 - ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

Righteousness (vs. greed)

Matt. 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Prayer and Bible Study

Godliness (vs. worldliness)

1 John 2:15-17 - ¹⁵Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

Ministry

Generosity

Jan 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

II. Whose Role Is It?

Husbands / Father

Eph 5:25-27 ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; ²⁶that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

And about Abraham:

Gen 18:19 “For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

Wives:

Titus 2:4-5 ⁴that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

III. How Can You Lead Your Family Toward God?

How can we lead them to follow God?

By living it –

Tit 2:7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified,

Watching out who we are friends with.

Deut. 7:1-4 - ¹“When the LORD your God shall bring you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and shall clear away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, ²and when the LORD your

God shall deliver them before you, and you shall defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.

³Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. ⁴For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will quickly destroy you.

“I will choose my friends with care. I am who my friends are. I speak their language and I wear their clothes. I share their opinions and their habits. From this moment forward I will choose to associate with people whose lives and lifestyles I admire. If I associate with chickens I will learn to scratch at the ground and squabble over crumbs. If I associate with eagles I will learn to soar to great heights.” - Andy Andrews, *The Traveler's Gift*

Conclusion: You CAN Do It!

Deut. 30:11-20 - ¹¹For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' ¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' ¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; ¹⁶in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You shall not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

We should live our lives and lead our families in such a way that we are eligible for positions of leadership within the church.

1 Tim 3:4-5 - ⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

1 Tim 3:12-13 - ¹²Let deacons be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.