

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a believer in Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this eighth series, the Bible teaches five responsibilities of Christian parents with respect to raising their children. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: **TO TEACH GOD'S WORD**. We will meditate a new Bible passage, memorise a new Bible verse and then review the previously memorised verses together.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Deuteronomy 6:6-7. We will meditate the truths in the Bible together. Let me read Deuteronomy 6:6-9. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates."

The memorisation verse is: To teach God's Word: Deuteronomy 6:6-7. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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. Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

(T) **First. Parents have the responsibility to set an example for their children.**

Our passage begins with the words, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts." Before parents train their children, they should train themselves. God's first commands the parents what they should do to themselves before they do something to their children. The first responsibility of the parents is to love God wholeheartedly and to put God's Words into their own hearts! God wants the parents to set a good example to their children.

One. The Bible warns against the bad example of parents. In 1 Kings 22:52 we read that king Ahaziah of Israel did evil in the eyes of the Lord, because he walked in the ways of his wicked father and mother. His parents were big idolaters. It is sad to say that their children followed their bad example and also became big idolaters.

Two. The Bible shows the influence of the good example of parents. In Proverbs 31:10-31 we read about the great influence of the good example of a mother. It says that her children and her husband stand up and praise her, because she is such a great blessing to them! It is very important that parents set an example in the following five areas: obedience, truthfulness (honesty), respect, wisdom and love. Proverbs 3:33 teaches, "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous!"

(S) **Second. Parents have the responsibility to set an example in their relationship to God.**

Parents should especially set an example to their children in how they relate to God.

One. Parents should love the Lord with all their heart, soul and strength. Not only should God be the first in the life of the father and the mother, but God should also be the first in the Christian home! In Matthew 10:37 Jesus teaches, "Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me". Therefore, to love Jesus Christ more than your child means the following: *If the choice is between a child and Christ, the child's wish, no matter how ardent, should be rejected.* The parent's supreme loyalty is to Christ and no other relationship may replace this all important relationship!

To love Jesus Christ more than your child also means that parents should *resist the temptation to let their home and family revolve around the children*, because it would make the children selfish and spoil them! Instead, parents should help the children to develop maturity, responsibility and character.

In the same way the Christian *home and family should not revolve around a Christian ministry*, but it should only revolve around the Lord Jesus Christ!

Two Parents should put God's Words into their hearts. They should let God's commandments rule in their own hearts and guide them how they live and behave. How do parents put God's Words into their own hearts? They put God's Word into their minds and hearts by reading the Bible in their home every day and by praying. Children should realise that the convictions, beliefs, values and priorities of their parents are not simply arbitrary opinions, but that they are

derived from God's Word! Children must learn that the highest authority in the home is God and his Word and that the parents have submitted themselves to that authority. Parents will only be able to develop biblical convictions, beliefs, values and habits when they read, trust and obey the things written in the Bible. If the parents sow God's Words on their own hearts, they will also reap God's fruits in their own lives. And if they sow in their home, they will reap in their home.

(T) Third. Parents have the responsibility to set an example of a good relationship with their spouse.

One of the most important commands in the Bible concerns the relationship between husbands and wives. In Ephesians 5:22-33 we read about the responsibilities parents have toward one another. The best way children learn about love, leadership, respect and submission is by observing their parents day in and day out.

One. The God-given responsibility of the mother is that she serves the father of the children by love, respect and submission.

Titus 2:4 teaches that young mothers should love their husbands and children, be self-controlled and pure, be busy at home, be kind, and be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Especially when the children are young, they need a mother at home, who is there to love them and train them and encourage them to grow up. *To submit* to the father does not mean to submit to him like a slave, but to submit to him like a helper. It is to respect him as the leader and to follow him by being the best team member of his team. As a team member, she gives him all the input, suggestions and ideas she can, discuss issues and their consequences with him and then allow him to make the final decision. *To respect* him is to state her point of view in a gentle way and then to allow God to work it out in his own way. It is to carefully consider the teaching and advice of the father of the house. It is to involve him in the making of her plans and to communicate the progress she is making. It is to voluntarily take the initiative to serve him without waiting for him to ask her. It is to patiently listen to him and to try to understand his problems and points of view. When a child observes his mother day after day, he will unconsciously and consciously learn the very important characteristics of love, respect and submission.

(S) Two. The God-given responsibility of the father is that he should serve the mother of the children by love and leadership.

To love is to show unselfish interest in her, to wholeheartedly accept her and to help her to become her best. Love is beautifully expressed in 1 Corinthians 13. The father should *lead* the mother as Christ leads the Church. Leadership in the world is to rule over people, but leadership in the Bible is to serve. The father should serve the mother by leading her like a shepherd. He should feed her, care for her, protect her and carry her through difficulties. The father should serve the mother by leading her like a steward. He should guide her in God's ways and take good care of her possessions and activities. The father should serve the mother especially in the areas where she needs him most. When a father loves like this and leads like this, it will not be difficult for the mother to love him and to submit to his leadership in the family! When a child observes his father day after day, he will unconsciously and consciously learn the very important characteristics of love and leadership.

Ezekiel 16:44 says that when a father and a mother exercise their responsibilities toward one another, "the daughter will be like the mother" and "the son will be like the father!"

(T) Fourth. Parents have the responsibility to train the child to walk with God.

In verse Deuteronomy 6:7-9, God teaches parents to *impress* God's commands on the minds and lives of their children. He says, "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up". Parents and children should allow the Word of God to control the *actions* of their hands, the *thoughts* in their minds and the *atmosphere* and *activities* in the home! In Deuteronomy 32:46, God teaches, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law". God has given parents the responsibility to train their children to know God and to obey God. No governing authority in the world has the right to forbid parents to do this! The Bible is the most important book that the children should study throughout their lives.

One. The Bible gives young people knowledge of salvation.

In 2 Timothy 3:15 we read, "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." If a child does not hear the gospel, how can he believe in it? Therefore, parents have the responsibility to explain the gospel to their children at different stages of their child's development, and to give them an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ into their lives! Romans 10:17 teaches that "faith comes by hearing the gospel".

(S) Two. The Bible teaches children truth and trains them how to live righteously.

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we read, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." If a child does not regularly hear the truths of the Bible, how can he trust or obey these truths? Therefore, parents have the responsibility to

read and discuss the Bible regularly with his children. The Bible will make children mature and complete human beings and will equip them completely for their calling or task in life.

Three. Practical ways to imprint God's Word on the minds and lives of children.

Parents should train their children to read and study the Bible and especially to obey the Bible. Parents may make use of all kinds of means: They could have a *family Bible time*. The father or mother reads a passage from the Bible and they discuss the passage together with the children. They could have a *family prayer time* (Eph 6:18). They could memorise Bible verses together. When the children are old enough, the parents could teach their children to have their own *quiet time* every day. A family could also serve Jesus Christ together in their neighbourhood. By means of these ways, the child can have the same sincere faith as his parents have. In 2 Timothy 1:5 is written, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice". Parents should train the child to grow in faith. Parents should not deny children experiences in which they must trust the Lord. Also let the child share in the difficult experiences of the parents when they are called to trust God.

(T) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is "To teach God's Word". Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Deuteronomy 6:6-7. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. The topic today is "To teach God's Word" and the reference is Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) To teach God's Word: Deuteronomy 6:6-7. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

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(T+S) To teach God's Word: Deuteronomy 6:6-7. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.

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(T) To teach God's Word: Deuteronomy 6:6-7. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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. Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

(S) POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

Series "Christian marriage", verses 3-5 and series "Christian parents", verses 1-2.

(T) To love and to submit: Titus 2:4-5. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2:4-5.

(S) To resolve conflicts: Matthew 5:23-24. Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24.

(T) To remain faithful: Proverbs 3:3-4. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:3-4.

(S) To love by spending: 2 Corinthians 12:14-15. I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions, but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. So I will very gladly spend for your souls everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less? 2 Corinthians 12:14-15.

(T) To develop all areas of life: Proverbs 22:6. Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6.

(S) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.