

Equipping Parents

to be the Spiritual Leaders in Their Homes

- † Study the Word of God to be equipped to disciple your precious children.
- † ***Dad and Mom's Primary Discipling Role: Impressing the Heart with Truth***

The Heart is the Wellspring of Life (Prov.4:23)

- “The heart is where we think, grieve, rejoice, love, hate, desire, fear, pray, etc.” (Ted & Margy Tripp, *Instructing a Child's Heart*, 2008, p.9)

- Prov.23:15-19 is the heart of the godly parent.

My son, if your heart is *wise*,
then my heart will be glad;
¹⁶ my inmost being will rejoice
when your lips speak what is *right*.
¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners,
but always be zealous for *the fear of the LORD*.
¹⁸ There is surely a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off.
¹⁹ Listen, my son, and be wise,
and keep your heart on the right *path*.

Flow of Heart

- Goal of solid, Biblical parenting is persuading the heart of the wisdom and truthfulness of God's ways.
 - Solid parenting skills are built on solid truth.
 - This is not to control or manage them but to point them to the greatest joy and happiness they can experience – delighting in God and the goodness of His ways.
- Result of solid, Biblical parenting is a spiritual oneness [in Christ] between parents and their children.
 - It is being one in the Spirit of love, humility, truth, grace, and wisdom.
 - It is being of one faith, one baptism, one Father. (Eph.4:1-6)

Life is a Classroom

- **Biblical formative instruction is the life-giving, life-shaping truth of God.**
 - In its absence, secular formative instructors take over.
 - Hearts are easily captivated by hollow and deceptive philosophies of godless / idolatrous cultures (Col.2:8).
 - Without the Scriptures, majority culture interprets life through unregenerate eyes and this is promoted through various means.

- Biblical formative instruction also shapes your relationship with your child.
 - How do you think of the Bible?
 - “The Bible provides in God-inspired, rich literary textures, the story of creation, the Fall, the incarnation, redemption and hope through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and a glorious second coming of Jesus to establish the new heavens and the new earth.” (Instructing a Child’s Heart, Tedd & Margy Tripp, 2008)
 - It is one of the primary ways our Heavenly Father imparts grace and truth to us.
 - It is the primary way the Holy Spirit exalts Christ in our minds and hearts to be able to live the Gospel.
- We must teach our children to love the Scriptures.
 - Teach the law, the promises, the warnings, the fulfillment of the Word in Christ.
 - We must love the Scriptures so our children see and hear us longing to read it, hear it, understand it, and living it.
 - Ultimately, love for the Word comes through a lot of prayer and perseverance, like laboring in child-birth.

The Heart Needs To Be Equipped

- **Identify God and His ways**
 - This is seen in the narrative and prophetic portions and ultimately in the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - Recognize that the Gospel is God’s most powerful way of overcoming the evil of sin with goodness in His Son.
 - Gospel power is our confidence in every challenge and difficulty.
 - The Gospel way is the only path to redemption and godliness.
- **Identify the enemy and his ways.**
 - He is seen first in Genesis 3 and his doom is recorded in Revelation 20.
 - He is the father of lies and the prince of the air.
 - His deception leads men to live according to the flesh rather than the spirit.
- **Equip the mind and heart and engage the battle.**
 - The battle motif must be embraced and internalized so that our approach to life is not neglecting a very real dynamic reality which seeks to destroy us. (Rev.12)
 - The battle motif appears in many places many times in the OT to serve as types of struggles that God’s people will consistently face while we remain in this body.
 - Many Psalms express battle cries and dire pleas for deliverance from enemies.
 - The prophet Daniel received great and glorious revelations of the heavenly battle which caused him to lose all strength, be full of anguish, and barely be able to breathe.

- **5 Goals for Formative Instruction**
 - Remember Scripture is our personal history.
 - Seeing the vital connection between the powerful story of redemption in the Scriptures and their daily experience.
 - The instruction we give will only make sense in the context of the story of the Scriptures that tells them who they are and about the God who made them and offers them redemption in Christ – ie. the Biblical Worldview.
 - Jesus declared that He is the Way, Truth, and Life. Only through Him can we become the Father’s children.
 - This means to find our personal history and identity according to Jesus, the fulfillment and substance of the entire Scriptures.
 - Believing and seeing the Biblical context of life – God’s goodness in creation and redemption.
 - Experiencing struggles and hardships in light of God’s revelation and understanding the complexities of the soul in relationships.
 - Responding to life’s difficulties with faith in what God has done in Christ, His death and resurrection, with a determination and satisfaction to surrender to the Holy Spirit’s leading to become one with Christ through death and resurrection.
 - Develop godly habits.
 - Godliness has value for all things in this life and the next.
 - 1 Timothy 4:8 - For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
 - Apply Scripture to life.
 - Understanding is synonymous with knowing God.
 - Prov.2
 - "The fear of the LORD **is** the beginning of wisdom, and **knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**
 - Model spiritual vitality.
 - A clear, deep knowledge of God’s Word in its entirety provides the true and faithful picture of genuine spiritual vitality.
 - This provides an objective standard for parents and children to measure what they see, hear, and experience.
 - Grow into a mature relationship with our children.
 - There is nothing more worthy of celebration than God’s Sabbath Rest which speaks of completion and maturity, individually and corporately. This is illustrated in the feasts that God commanded Israel to hold every year.

Bible Reading Plan

- **2 Primary Objectives**
 - Obtain a holistic understanding of the redemption story.
 - Keep a constant eye out for the Gospel; see Jesus as the central theme expounded upon by every book of Scripture.
- Each devotional time, read from all of the following:
 - OT with exception Psalms and Proverbs
 - Grow in knowledge of Israel's history and God's interaction with His people.
 - Psalms
 - Grow in faithful, worshipful responses to enemies.
 - Proverbs
 - Grow in wisdom and understanding of the fear of the Lord.
 - NT
 - Grow in clarity of Jesus' identity and the power of the Holy Spirit.