

Taking It Home:

- How often do you intentionally talk to your children or grandchildren about Jesus Christ, the Bible, salvation, etc., while you're with them? Do your children or grandchildren know your testimony of spiritual faith? Do you have a Christian testimony of faith in Christ? Have you ever shared your testimony of faith with another person? Why? Why Not?

- **READ Psalm 78:1-8** this week. What are some Scriptural certifiable and proven methods of investing into the next generation of children so they may learn to love God, obey God and serve God for the remainder of their lives?

- What are some easy and practical methods for parents and grandparents to invest spiritual truths into their children and grandchildren on a daily basis according to **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**? What can you personally do to help make your home environment a safe and loving "Christ-Like" environment for modeling to your children and grandchildren to learn, know and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ?
 - At Home?

 - While Traveling?

 - Before going to Bed?

 - When a child gets up in the morning?

- This week write out your testimony of salvation and memorize it so you can easily share it with your family members and others.

- **REALITY:** If there is NONE or very little spiritual investment intentionally transferred into children by Christian parents while the children are living in a Christian's home, what should the spiritual expectations be for the child once they've grown up to adulthood?

Parenting and the Credibility Crisis

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of August 3, 2014
Judges 2:10-15; Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Quick Review: Israel's second leader, Joshua, has died at the age of 110. The Nation of Israel strains to find a new leader like Moses and Joshua who will lead them in their new homeland. During the challenge to discover God's new leader to lead Israel, it is discovered that the new generation of Israelites are NOT familiar with the LORD or His amazing and miraculous works while leading the nation of Israel. The first people (Israelites) in the Promised Land had vivid recollections of all the miracles and judgments and were devoted to faith, duty, and purity (Josh. 24:16-18; 31). The new generation of Israelites were ignorant of the experiences of their parents and yielded more easily to corruption. Training children in righteous living is not developed through osmosis, it requires intentional parental spiritual investment. Obviously the generation who witnessed the mighty works of God in forging and developing Israel as God's nation failed to invest those miraculous narratives and spiritual truths into their children thus leaving the new generation ripe for corruption and idolatry of foreign gods.

My Story:

- How important is it to you and your family to invest financially into your retirement account every month? Why is it important? If you did NOT faithfully invest into a retirement account each month, would you be prepared for retirement? Discuss.
- What does "spiritual investment" look like to you? Discuss.
- Share a personal anecdote of how you were or were NOT invested into spiritually by your parents. How did your parents spiritually invest into you? How often did your parents spiritually invest into you, i.e., daily, weekly, monthly? How did the spiritual investment guide you or prepare you spiritually? If your parents did NOT spiritually invest into you during your youth, how did their lack of spiritual investment affect you spiritually?
- What was your home environment like while you were growing up as a child? i.e., Christ like environment? Somewhat religious environment? Not Christ-like and not religious at all? Discuss.

Growing Deeper:

- **READ Joshua 24:15b-24.** What is the promise and total commitment the people of Israel promised the LORD and Joshua? Now **READ Judges 2:10-23.** What happened? From the information you have from Scripture, attempt to explain how a vibrant God worshipping nation during Joshua's leadership of Israel changed as soon as he died? Why would the people who served God, who knew the remarkable story of God's deliverance and miracles, fail to tell their children and grandchildren? What could be the possible reason? Discuss. What are some possible reasons why American Christians fail to spiritually invest in their children?
- **READ Deuteronomy 6:4-7.** Deut. 6:4 is known as the *Shema*. This Scripture is the foundation of Israel's faith and trust in God. Please write down the instructions of Deut. 6:4-7, step-by-step, then explain what God commands the people of Israel to do and then discuss as a group. Today, should Christian parents pass on their ultimate love of God to their children? If so, how?
- **Compare Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37-39.** Have God's commandments to His people changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament? According to both Scriptures, what is God demanding from each and every believer? How does a genuine believer demonstrate his/her love, passion, devotion, personal spiritual faith, trust and dependency on God to their children? Is it realistic to believe a child will learn spiritual truths simply through osmosis? Is it necessary for a child to be personally spiritually invested into and trained by his/her parents at home? Discuss.
- Israel's people believed in the LORD, worshipped the LORD and made a promise to serve the LORD (Joshua 24:16-24) yet they failed to intentionally invest into their children (next generation) and grandchildren to personally know God and learn about His marvelous wonders? Pastor Paul mentioned in the message today that 95% of American Evangelical Christian parent's (Barna Research) desire their children to be raised with spiritual knowledge and Biblical truth, yet only 5% feel qualified or equipped to personally train their children. What seems to be the disconnect or problem? What should be done to correct this problem? Is American Christianity stronger or weaker now than 20 years ago? Why? Discuss.
- **READ Judges 2:11-15.** What were the consequences to the people of Israel when they abandoned God and started worshipping foreign gods? What are the names of the foreign gods Israel worshipped? Make a list and then discuss your findings. What foreign gods are Americans worshipping today? Is America a "Post-Christian" nation? Why? Why Not?
- Pastor Paul talked about the "Sin Cycle" in his message today. Explain what the "Sin Cycle" is and how a person and nation can avoid it.
- Pastor Paul talked about a Christian or Biblical worldview. Describe what a Christian Worldview or Biblical worldview is. What are the ramifications to America if the next generation does not know about Jesus Christ due to the fact they do not know what a Christian, Biblical Worldview is?