**Parenting on Purpose—1**

**How to Help Your Children Love God**

**“The Shema”**

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7Impress 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. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NIV

**What Are We Doing Wrong?**

1. **We risk too little.**
2. **We rescue too quickly.**
3. **We model too weakly.**
4. **We risk too little.**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God ...*

Hebrews 11:6 NIV

1. **We rescue too quickly.**

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.* Galatians 6:7 NIV

1. **We model too weakly.**

**Your children don’t just become what you say; they become what they see.**

*... “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me*.*’”* Mark 7:6 NIV

**Who and what you expose your children to**

**will shape who they become and what they believe.**

**We can’t force our children to love God, but we can expose them to the people and experiences that increase the likelihood of spiritual growth.**

1. **Expose them to the joy of knowing God personally.**

*“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God ...”*

John 17:3 NIV

*“You should create an environment where your kids want to have discussions about God so it’s not something they feel they have to do but something they want to do.” —*Mandy Groeschel, 17 years old

1. **Expose them to the presence and power of God in His church.**

*Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.* Psalm 92:13 NKJV

**TALK IT OVER**

Read **Galatians 6:7**. What seeds are you planting right now? How might those seeds impact generations to come?

Share about a time when someone helped you get to know God better. What did they say or do that made an impact?

Think of someone in your life who is younger than you. What are some ways you could intentionally invest in that person this week?

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