

parent equip

SESSION 3

BRENTWOOD
families

LESSON PLAN

Influence with Wisdom

Practical Thoughts and Action Steps for Parents
Deuteronomy 5:1-22

INTRODUCTION/ATTENTION-GETTER

Using the document, "Silly Laws," give participants the short true/false quiz of silly laws. (Answer: All of the laws are true.) After reading the laws and determining that they're all true, explain why each of the laws originally came to exist, which causes them to actually make sense.

God has never left His people in the dark without His Word and truth to guide them, but it's easy for our children to feel about the Bible the same way many of us feel about antiquated laws that seem to make no sense. Unfortunately, we can unintentionally give the message to our children that the Bible isn't for them.

DISCUSS

Why might children disregard the Bible or think it isn't for them? Examples:

- They might know individual stories but not the BIG story.
- Sermons and worship services seem directed to their parents.
- They don't understand the Bible.
- The Bible doesn't seem relevant to their life.
- It isn't taught to them in a way that connects with them.

THE POINT

In the previous session, we discussed the role church involvement plays in helping children establish a solid identity as part of the body of Christ. This session will dig into the importance of complementing church involvement with intentional discipleship in the home.

WHEREVER YOU ARE...

Remind parents that wherever they are as a family right now is a great time to start as they seek to disciple their children. The intention of these classes is to give families some practical handles for family discipleship, starting wherever they are.

DOWNLOAD APP

Remind participants to download the Brentwood Baptist Church app and turn on notifications. During this series, they will get prompts regularly with content to help them in their journey.

READ

Call on a volunteer to read aloud Proverbs 22:6.

LEARN

Briefly work back through the Scripture as you point out the following:

- In Proverbs 22:6, "In the way he should go" is best translated "according to his BENT." The Hebrew language puts the emphasis of this verse on the uniqueness of each child.
- This makes the home the ultimate SMALL GROUP because parents are best equipped to understand and appreciate the unique way each child is hard-wired to receive concepts of faith and the gospel.
- This is a PROVERB and not an iron-clad PROMISE.

BRAINSTORM

What are some reasons your child needs a small group at home? Such as:

- To read back over the Scripture from the most recent sermon to help your child understand points that may not have made sense to him or her
- To address character issues or spiritual questions arising in your child
- To reinforce what your child learned in his or her group at church
- To address cultural issues and what the Bible has to say about them
- To specifically teach biblical truth in a way that meets your child's unique learning style
- The context of your family is (hopefully) the place where your child feels safest to ask hard questions/admit struggles
- Your family can support each other in prayer in the privacy and security of your home

DISCUSS

Ask how many people in this room feel fully qualified and prepared to lead their family as a small group in their home. Create a list of objections/roadblocks people might have to leading family discipleship:

- My child might ask hard questions
- We don't have enough time
- I don't know where to start
- My spouse isn't on board
- I'm not a good communicator
- I don't know the Bible well enough

Discuss these objections, allowing group members to speak into others' objections with things they've tried or ideas for the future.

SHARE

As a leader, share an experience you've had leading your family. Perhaps you felt unqualified and here's what you did, or perhaps there was a time when you tried to lead your family and everything went badly, but you didn't give up.

MAKE SUGGESTIONS

Every family is different, and what works for one family may not be the best fit for another. Here are just a few ideas to try as a starting point (distribute the Family Small Group Resources document). (The leader may want to list each category and solicit ideas from the participants first, and then distribute the resources doc and add other ideas after the group has shared.)

MORE DISCUSSION

Give participants the opportunity to make notes on their Family Small Group Resources document based on the discussion and ideas other participants gave during this time. Allow extra time for participants to continue to ask questions and give each other ideas. As you do, point out that having an open-ended time and a safe place to ask questions will be extremely beneficial to your family as well.

FINAL REMINDERS

Remind participants that it's okay to stumble through this to find what works for your family. It's okay to not know all—or any—of the answers your children ask. Admit when you don't know something, then commit to finding the answers. This reinforces the truth that when we don't know the answers, we can find them in God's Word, and it teaches your children it's ok not to know the answers and to have to search for them. Lastly, it also sends your kids the message that they are worth your time and that their questions matter.

EMPHASIZE

If you need help knowing how to look things up in your Bible, come talk to me afterwards!

Give participants the Influence with Wisdom At-Home worksheet to take home and prayerfully work through over the next week.

PRAY

Take a few moments to pray over the participants, asking God to help them be faithful and consistent in taking one step forward in discipling their children and creating a small group within their family.

REMINDER

End by encouraging participants to take one step forward this week toward creating or enhancing this family small group.