

What Do We Teach Our Children?

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References: **Psalm 78**, Psalm 78:3-8; Psalm 32:1-2; Ephesians 6:1-4

I want to thank everyone, all the ladies, for a very good lunch, and very nice to be together. And I want to invite you to take your Bibles and turn to Psalm 78, and just as a Scripture reading before we get into our subject.

So the subject in this session is, what do we teach our children? What are some of the key things we should teach our children? And I think it's a very, very important thing. We should teach our children, of course, the Word of God. But there's other key things we need to teach them that are found—certainly found—in the Word of God. And we see it over and over again. And Faith and I sat down concerning this session and thought about some things that we see lacking. We see lacking in our society today. Okay?

But I see it all through the Scriptures. I see it in some cases in other cultures. And I think we need to reemphasize some of these aspects of what we teach our children. And I think it'd be very, very important. And I see rudeness in our culture today. I see children that are just absolutely disrespectful to their parents, to adults. I find talking to school teachers, those who teach in public schools in North America and Florida, students that are absolutely disrespectful and I don't know what the word would be exactly, but just... just arrogant and bold regarding speaking, disrespect, rudeness to teachers.

I just know of one case—I'll tell you an elder in a local assembly, he's retired now from public school teaching, but a young man took a whole bunch of books in the hallway and took them and hit him over the head, knocked him to the ground with a pile of books like this, and then head off down the hallway during a very busy time in the school. And he had to leave; he had left school for a period of time to recover. And he would tell me how fighting in school accelerated in the time that he was in school. The first beginning of when he would go to school, probably a school fight between students. By the end, he said there were in his school district one or 2,000 instances of violence.

Look at verse 3:

[Psalm 78:3-8 NKJV]

³ Which we have heard and known,
And our fathers have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children,
Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

⁵ For He established a testimony in Jacob,
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers,
That they should make them known to their children;

⁶ That the generation to come might know them,
The children who would be born,
That they may arise and declare them to their children,

⁷ That they may set their hope in God,
And not forget the works of God,
But keep His commandments;

⁸ And may not be like their fathers,
A stubborn and rebellious generation,
A generation that did not set its heart aright,
And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Thank you.

When I look at this portion in Psalm 78, the psalmist Asaph, writing a psalm of teaching, he said what we learned from our fathers was good. What we learned was passed down from our early fathers was a good thing, and our fathers taught it to them. And he says we should pass it on from generation to generation. But he says there was a failure in a generation. He says there was a generation that did not teach it. Verse 7: that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, that they might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that has not set their hearts aright, whose spirit was not steadfast in God.

There's a failure. There's a breakdown in this transmission from generation to generation. And there may be a breakdown in our own culture, in our own families, in our own Christian families. And I think there has been somewhat of a breakdown there. I think some of the more committed families, yes, they're doing this. They're teaching their children, passing on from generation to generation. But a lot of parents are busy at work. Moms are working.

Dads are working. The pressure of school, pressure of making more money, pressure of whatever it may be. And this work of passing, this work of home life, of Christian home life, we see less and less of it.

And so in this session, I want to look at some of the things—what we should teach our children. So you have your handout in front of you.

1. Words and Respect in the Family

In the very beginning, I have what I call words. The heading under number one is words. And in this heading, what I'm trying to say is teach our children respect for you and rules within the family.

Now, I have under the first one is children should be asking their mother and father, "Please may I have..." When I was growing up, I had to say to my parents, "Please, can I have a snack before dinner? Please, can I go into the refrigerator and get such-and-such? Please, can I have my friends come over? Please, can I?" That's what I would do. Sometimes they'd say no. Sometimes they'd say yes.

Today is none of that. So there's hardly very little in that, and so many families don't do that. They don't treat their mother in that way. They don't treat their fathers in that way. They just go like they are the ones in charge of the family. They just go and do and take and say whatever they would.

So some words: "Please may I have..." "May I have certain kinds of food?" "May I be excused from the table?" When I was sitting at a table—now today sometimes they don't even eat at a table. They eat whatever time they want to eat. But when you eat together and want to leave the table and do homework or whatever it was, I'd have to say to my mother and father, "Please may I leave? Please may I be excused from the table?"

Now, this showed respect. This showed honor to my mother and father. And there is something very necessary in this whole area of respect. I feel there's a tremendous breakdown in respect.

Now, we homeschooled our children. Not every family can do that. I'm not saying you should homeschool your children, but I was a preacher, full-time preacher. I had a room which was my office. Faith would teach in the kitchen or in part of the living room. Sometimes I could hear from where I was my children being disrespectful. And I would come out of my office and I would say, "Alan, don't speak to your mother even in a tone. Your tone was incorrect. What you said speaking back to your mother was incorrect"—or the girls.

Respect, I think, is the number one thing that we need more and more in our families. And that respect gets passed on to others within a local church. Sunday school teachers get that respect, leaders get that respect, and others get that respect. I think it's a very, very important thing.

So I think we need to do that. We need to have what mothers and fathers say to our children to clean their rooms. We say, "Yes, Daddy. Yes, Mommy." Asking permission, respect to the mother and father and other adults—so very, very important.

You probably see it in grocery stores and department stores. You see children showing very little respect, yelling at their mothers and fathers, calling them stupid in the store when they're shopping. I remember one time being with Faith, my wife, and kids, and they saw a young person, little child, calling their mother stupid, saying things they shouldn't be saying. And my son came over to me and said—he said, "If we said those kinds of things, you would kill us." And we wouldn't actually kill them, but we wouldn't permit that. We wouldn't permit that. And the guidance of a mother and father are important.

2. Biblical Teaching in the Home

Now, the second thing, number two, is the biblical teaching of our children. We need to pass on biblical truths. You might have a curriculum you want to use at home. You might want to go through children's-based Sunday school—not Sunday school, but a correspondence-type course, a booklet on teaching. However you want to do it. We read biographies. We did teaching. We memorized verses. There's all kinds of things you can do in the home to pass on biblical truths.

But I have four things:

1. I think it's important to read Scripture together. Read to your children. Read from the Word of God. I think that is very important.
2. Encourage them to ask questions. Sometimes we read it and we say, "Well, what does this mean?" or "What do you think that means?" And sometimes we took some time and got our pens and paper and wrote some questions and answers about studying the Word of God, teaching our children.

Let's just turn for a minute to Psalm 32. Psalm 32. I remember on occasion with my son, we just spent some time studying this psalm. And we did others as well. But I would say to him in this psalm—I would say to him in verses 1 and 2, "What are three words for sin in these first two verses?"

[Psalm 32:1-2 NKJV]

¹ Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.

² Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

So I actually went over to a photocopy machine and I photocopied this page. And so I said, "What are the two, three words for sin? Let's circle them, let's highlight them." So we said transgressions in verse 1, sin in verse 1, verse 2 iniquity—three words for sin: transgression, sin, iniquity.

"So what about words for forgiveness? Are there three words for forgiveness in the first two verses?" So I said, "Look! Oh, there's transgressions forgiven, sin covered, blessed is the man to whom the iniquity is not imputed." Oh, very good!

And so we would go down through the psalm circling words, looking at things, and then: What do we learn from it? What are some applications? So these are the kind of things we can do as we begin to move ahead with our children, teaching them more and more some of the great passages. We should teach our children some of the great passages, not leave it just up to Sunday school teachers, not leave it up to camp, not leave it to something else.

Fathers have a great role. I think fathers have this great role of teaching—teaching the Word of God. Of course, moms do too, but fathers should have that role as well.

Turn with me for a moment over to Ephesians, Ephesians chapter 6. I don't know if you ever noticed in Scripture how often the responsibility of fathers is brought up in Scripture.

Now, in 1 Samuel, it says about the sons Hophni and Phinehas. It says the Lord came to Eli and said to Eli, "Eli, you have not restrained your children. You have not restrained them." It was your responsibility. He had a wife, but it was your responsibility: "Why did you not do this?"

There was a man, a king, Ahab, and his wife was Jezebel. And she did evil concerning the vineyard. She manipulated and stole the vineyard of Naboth. The prophet came, not to Jezebel, but came to Ahab and said, "Ahab, Ahab, why have you allowed this to happen?" The father is the responsible one.

Here in chapter 6 of Ephesians, notice what it says about fathers. We in our culture have left too much up to the mother. And I believe the mother has a great role. But we've given over a lot of responsibility that the father should have.

Chapter 6 of Ephesians, notice what it says:

[Ephesians 6:1-3 NKJV]

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Verse 4:

[Ephesians 6:4 NKJV]

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Vic was talking about that. And bring them up—you fathers, bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You fathers have a role of teaching. The nurture is the idea of teaching. You have a role of teaching. Fathers, that's a role they have in the family to teach the children.

So:

- We read Scriptures together.
- We teach.
- We pray together, as Harold brought out.
- We bring them to church. We should come as often as we can to be around the people of God.

I think it's a wonderful thing that our children make friends with older ones. Sometimes we separate ourselves into different groups, but we should be together as much as possible. Our children should get to know older believers, younger believers, middle-aged believers, all believers. We're all part of the family together.

It was kind of a blessing: we had a 97-year-old woman. She died at 97. I think she was probably 91 or 89 at the time. She was a lovely believer. Her name was Louise. But my youngest daughter, Sarah, during break time would go over where she was sitting and sit next to her and have this conversation with Louise—Sarah and Louise, my daughter Sarah and Louise. And during break time, she would often go and talk to this older woman. It was a beautiful thing.

We don't have any barriers. We get to know the older believers; we get to know the younger believers; the older believers get to know the younger believers. We're a family. And families encourage each other and respect each other and build each other up. And so bring them to church. Get them to know the older believers, younger believers, and get together to worship, learn the Scriptures together, to hear questions from other believers, and get them to serve as they get older.

Devotions after dinner or biographies to be read: we tried to read short biographies to our children often after dinner.

Ages and Stages of Instruction

But I want to spend the rest of the time on this sheet: things to teach our children at different ages.

Ages 1 to 4: Reverence and Obedience

So when they're between one year and four years old, what are the kind of things we teach them? Do we just wait until they're five years old before we teach them anything? I think these are crucial ages.

First thing we teach them is **reverence**. We teach them about the Bible, that a certain reverence towards God, a reverence or a respect to the mother and father, to be quiet in church. There is a reverence when you're in church; you behave a certain way.

So you eat as a family at the dinner table, not leaving the table even when you're young without permission. That's an act of respect to your mother and father. And also eating the food your mother has prepared.

Now, my mother—not to say that you've got to do exactly what she did—but if I didn't eat the food she prepared, she would wait a little while. She would tell me to do it. If I still didn't do it, she would say, "Go to your room." She took the food and put it in the refrigerator. And then she said to me, if I was hungry, I'd come down, she'd take it out of the refrigerator cold, and then I'd have to eat it then. Now, it probably doesn't happen today; I'm not sure if that happens today. But it's a respect to eat the food your mother has prepared.

Reverence, and being taught between one and four years old about prayer, praying to a God who hears our prayers: Who is God? What is sin? What is right? What is wrong? Boundaries of what they can do and cannot do, and obedience—being obedient to what you hear.

Now, I had my son. We would tell him to do certain things, but sometimes children are—you've got to watch them—a little sneaky. Boys can be sneaky; girls can be sneaky too. So we would tell them to do something, like, "Don't hit your sister in the head while she's sitting at a desk." He would walk by and hit her in the back of the head. Boys and girls can be not nice to each other.

So I'd say to Alan, "Don't do that." He would do it again.

So I would say, "Alan, did you hear me when I said you are not to do that?"

"Oh, I didn't hear you. Oh, Daddy, I didn't hear you say that."

So I began to learn. I would say, "Alan, don't do that. Did you hear what I said?" And I said, "I want you to say, 'Yes, Daddy.'"

He would say, "Yes, Daddy."

So we had to do that. We had to go through that so that they would be obedient to the things you would say.

Now, some things as a parent you let go when they're very young. You let certain things go. You don't jump on every single thing they do. But when they do direct disobedience to what you say—you tell them something and they do direct disobedience to that—now they're trying to push boundaries, want to see who's in charge, who's the boss. And so when they are directly disobedient, you have to take a step and do something to correct that.

So ages one to four: you bring them to meetings, teach them to sit quietly. Let them enjoy meals with other children and other times with Christians. And so you begin to teach them. One to four, they're learning Bible stories. They're learning about sin, learning about God. They're learning in church; they're learning how to behave.

At two years old, it's difficult. Two years old can be very difficult. I remember one time I was speaking and Faith had the kids in the back row. And out of the blue, Alan just got up and ran down the front aisle! Teach them to sit, teach them to behave. That's one to four.

Ages 5 to 8: Bible Foundations and Service

Five years old, five to eight: you learn books of the Bible. You memorize a list of the books of the Bible. You can teach them a song: "Genesis, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus..." An easy song to remember. I think we do it here sometimes at Vacation Bible School. Teach them books of the Bible, facts of the Bible, memorize verses from the Bible, attend Sunday school, Vacation Bible School.

Beginning to learn to serve: picking up books, putting them back in their place at the church building, go to work days or different times you need to clean up, attend devotions. If you have a Bible study at home, they would attend the Bible study at home and be an example to them to participate and be there for prayer, worship, and service.

So things that they do between five and eight years old: they're learning more, and their minds are like magnets. They take in so much.

We had Vacation Bible School, and for a little extra credit for points, every day they would learn five verses—memorize a block of five verses. Monday, five verses. Tuesday, five verses. Wednesday, five verses. Thursday, five verses. And Friday, five. Not just a memory verse, but a memory verse plus a block of five verses.

Do you know there were many kids that did that? I couldn't do it! I was so thrilled. We had one young boy who made a profession of salvation. Prior, he was kind of a wise guy, you know, kind of a like-to-have-fun kind of kid. But he memorized all those blocks of verses. Came in third! Two girls were always first and second, but he came in a very close third. Very encouraging. Memorization of verses between ages five and eight.

Ages 9 to 12: Assembly Life and Participation

Between ages 9 and 12, begin to participate more fully in the life of the assembly. Begin to invite friends to Vacation Bible School. Encourage mom to go and pick them up and bring them to Vacation Bible School. Pray for unsaved friends that you have in the neighborhood. They're beginning to get more involved in what can go on in the life of the assembly.

Sometimes in our local church, those kind of kids, we'll ask them to pray. We'll ask them to pray on a Wednesday night before the meeting begins for different ones who would like to do that.

Ages 13 to 18: Relationships, Examples, and Deepening Faith

Now, ages 13 to 18. Ages 13 to 18, this is a crucial age. And it's a little bit different as we move further along with our children.

Thirteen to 18: spend time with your children. Be there in their lives. They begin to have friends; they begin to go over to friends' homes; they begin to spread out in their relationships with other people. Encourage your kids to have good Christian relationships. Encourage your kids to have good Christian relationships. We want to surround our children with good, solid, serious Christian young people.

Spend time with your children. Be in their lives. Allow them to come to you with their problems, their fears, their doubts, their friends. Spend time with your children in the things they like to do. If they like to play piano, or if they like sports, if they like the arts—our daughter liked to do art and she submitted it at the state fair and different other times. She liked to do certain things. So be involved in their lives and the things they begin to do.

Allow them space and independence to become their own person. They become more independent at this age. And so you allow them a little bit of space to do those things, but not too much space, right? Begin to allow them a little bit more space.

We're careful at this point what kind of music they listen to, what kind of media they're being exposed to, what kind of friendships they have. We want to watch some of that kind of thing at this age, give them a little space, but keep an observation about some of these things. We pray for them, and we keep on praying for them at this age.

We make them come to church. It's not optional. Thirteen to 18, they're still in your home. They come to church with you. If they're sick, there's other reasons for it, but they come regularly with you. A very important thing. It's a very important thing to come to church together. You come together and sit and see the mother and father. Very important.

I don't feel like children can advance very far unless they have parents who are good examples to them at the local church. I feel when a father would get up to pray and you have three children, well, you've got six eyes looking at you right away. And you get up and pray, when you get up and read, when you do anything in church, your kids are looking at you. They are looking at you and they're saying, "What is he going to say? What is Dad going to say? What's going on here?"

And I think when they see that and they grow up seeing that, it has a great impact on their lives. I noticed my son saying some of the same things I said when I would pray or I would share something at the breaking of bread. And then you see your children wanting to serve. Our girls began to teach Sunday school at a relatively young age. I think they were 14, maybe 15; they were beginning to teach Sunday school.

So I think when you come together, that's such a crucial thing. When you are inconsistent in coming to the local church—you just don't show up, you just don't come—that's a breakdown in their development as a believer. If you come together as a family on a regular basis, I think you will see your kids go on strong for the Lord.

With limits and parental control, allow them certain dress styles, certain friendships, certain music styles. Get them involved in serving, taking jobs at the church, taking risks. Teach them about reasons and the basis for practices we have: Why do we have the Lord's Supper?

Why do we have these different things that we do? We talk about them, give biblical reasons for them, go through that, allow them to ask questions, allow them to share doubts about those things.

Model faithfulness to your children. Be helpers at all kinds of different ministries: VBS, youth group, special retreats, camp, whatever it may be—get involved in those kinds of things.

So you see, you grow through these things. Get your kids involved. Get involved together. Because they'll have doubts; they'll have questions. We talk about those questions and doubts. Get involved in your children's lives. Help them grow together in the things of the Lord. You begin to see some things you teach them. Teach them from a very young age. Correct them from a very young age. Teach respect from a very young age. Love them.

Cultivating Essential Character and Values

We'll be talking in the next session about discipline. But I want to end, and then take some questions, by a number of things we teach our children:

- We teach **responsibility**. They have jobs; they have chores. There are things they need to do around the home. It's not that Mom and Dad do all those things. One time Faith's parents came down and were babysitting. We went out for dinner, and her father told the children, "Pick up the toys that were scattered all over the place, and before Mom and Dad come back, clean up all the toys you were playing with." And they said to Grandma and Grandpa, "Oh, we don't have to do that. Mommy and Daddy like picking up all the toys." So we learned, oh, we've got a little something here to teach! We've got a little area we've got to work on. Picking up toys, chores, cleaning up the room, whatever other chores that you would have around the yard—cutting grass and pulling weeds and doing all kinds of things that we have to do. Responsibility. We have responsibility. Washing dishes. We always had what we called the big clean-up day. Pull the beds away from the wall; you would see all kinds of stuff under the beds and stuffed on the side. A big clean-up. Responsibility.

- **Work ethic**.

- The **value of money**. Teach our children: we would give them some money, but the value of money to save it, to spend it, to use it. Giving kids an allowance—I don't know if that's done anymore or you just buy things. Give them some money and see how they respect having that money.

- **Bible study, worship, and service**. Begin to learn some of these areas: dependence on God in prayer and participation.

- **Resourcefulness**. Resourcefulness is the ability to do much with relatively little—taking what they have and being resourceful about how they get things done and what they do.

- I think it's important to **limit screen time**: time they watch television, time they play video games, social media time, cell phone time when they get a cell phone.

Some big questions: When do you give a child a cell phone? Do you give a child a cell phone at four years old? I see kids in stores with a cell phone playing games on their cell phone at four years old, and then Mommy can't find her cell phone; they don't know where it is. So limit screen time, use of a cell phone, video games, social media, all these things. It's something that we do as parents.

Choosing and helping make **good relationships**—something very important: kids having good relationships. It doesn't mean the person you have a relationship with has got to be a Christian, but they've got to be a good family so they're not learning things they shouldn't be learning.

I'll just close with this. We had a neighbor about the same age as my son, so they became good friends. His name was Tyler. He didn't come from a Christian family; he came from the very opposite. None of them ever went to church. None of them ever went to church. But they were a good family in a lot of ways. And he would come to VBS. He would come to all kinds of events that we had for him. We had kids clubs and different events, and he would come to all that—Tyler.

And when he got to high school, he met a young girl, and she was from a Christian family. And they started going to a church. Later on, he went to college, and he kept on this relationship with this young lady, and they got married. And they live in Virginia today, and they're married.

And so one Sunday he was getting baptized. One Sunday he was getting baptized, and he called my son and he said, "Tell your father—tell your father all those times that he taught me, and we had meetings, and we had kids clubs and youth groups and VBS... yes, all those times were very important in my life." So he was a good kid, and the Lord did a work in his life, and he got saved and he's going on for the Lord.

Now, I want to stop there. Now I want to have a time to have Roy come up. And I know there's a lot of questions you could have about this whole subject of what to teach and how to teach our children. And then we'll get a little break and we'll get into the last session, which you might have more questions on, and that is the discipline of our children.

Question and Answer Session

David D.: So, any questions about the teaching of our children?

Question: What is one to four? How can we teach children about sin without making them afraid of God?

David D.: The fear of God?

Questioner: Yes. There are some who may be seeking Him, but the majority are not seeking Him.

David D.: So, are you saying, how do we teach the fear of God?

Questioner: No. How to teach about sin, but don't make children afraid of God.

David D.: Oh, okay. Okay. I don't think we have to have our kids afraid of God. I think we teach the love of God. So we do have a time we're teaching how God is—God loves them, and how on the Lord Jesus' side of the cross, speak about the God of love. But you talk also about the God of power and the God of miracles, the God that has a certain expectation, and that He punishes and corrects.

And so I think when we talk—and I think kids understand that so much more as they get older—that they understand they've done wrong. They understand that very, very quickly, that there are things that they do wrong, and parents will correct them, and maybe others will correct them at certain times. So I think those two things we bring together. Yes.

Translator: So she said that her daughter is 12 years old, and when she was young she listened to her mother, and after she grew up she had friends. So now the friends' words are more important than her words, so she listened to her friends. And also, just like if she has some lessons or activities when that conflict with the church time, she said, how does she deal with that? Should she go to that activity or should she come to church?

David D.: Well, she should come to church. At 12 years old, if she has friends that are influencing her in a bad way, and she's not listening to you at 12 years old, I think you need to change those relationships with those friends. And activities at 12 years old: you have a routine. You have certain things you do, and you say, "This is what we do as a family." Not another activity at another time, but we go to church at this particular time. Nothing comes in between that. That's a very important thing in our family. And so that's what we teach our children.

And I think that should be something to step in and change. These are the things we do as a family. This is what our convictions are about. We go on vacations, we do this, we eat at certain times, we do certain things, and those are the things we do. I don't think our children would even ask us, "Can I go to an activity Sunday morning when we have church and not go

to church with you?" I don't think they would even think of asking that question, because they realize that's something that we do. That's something that we do.

Now, when you're 35 years old, or when you're 20 years old and you're a full adult and you're living somewhere else, you make your own decisions. But when you're 12 and you're in our household, then we have certain principles, certain convictions that we live by. We go on vacation together; we do this and that together.

Translator: But he said that his child, he wouldn't even ask him today what we're going to do together.

David D.: Okay, hope that helps. Any other question?

Question: She said, "How to teach children to obey the Word of God at home?"

David D.: Well, I think example—the example of your mother and father, we see them do that. We teach some of the principles and also teach that the Bible is God's Word, it's truth. And we stress that this is a message from God, and God is our Creator, and these are principles that He's given to us. When they're little, we say it's a guidebook for living. God has given us these principles, and they're true, and they're principles that help us to live a life for the Lord that is pleasing, and they're good for us.

I think there's times we teach them stories from the Bible. We teach them rules from the Bible. And we teach about the character of God: God is love; God is righteous; God is holy. These are principles that God wants us to live by. And this is a great, holy God. And we speak about the greatness of God and the majesty of God. So I think we speak about the greatness of God and His attributes, and that He loves us and has created us for His glory, and so forth. So we bring that down to a kid's level. But those are the kind of things we teach. And of course, we live it as an example.

Translator: So, at this time, we need to teach him the principle of the Bible, that we need to live, and we need to be the example of the Bible.

David D.: Good questions. Any other questions?

Question (Shan): I have one question here. Sorry, this is Shan. I would like to know more like how and when to switch from the Bible storybook to transition into real Bible. I know storybook is really attractive with a lot of colors and lesser words, but I really hope I can somehow transition them to the real Bible. Because there's so many wordings, like try to introduce the New King James to them, I find it's a bit challenging, so I'm thinking what is the effective way to help them better.

David D.: Well, I would say when they can read...

Translator: Oh, go ahead. Sorry. He means that when they read the Bible, how they can turn the stories and the words into what children can understand. Some of the words are in the Book of Revelation, and some of the words have strong colors.

David D.: So I would say that when they can read—not the very beginning of reading, but when they can read fairly well, depending on each child is a little different—but I would say around five and six years old, we give them an easier translation. We might give them a little simpler translation. I think—Faith, what did we give them? Faith, when did we give them a Bible? They were... six or seven? Five, six, or seven, depending on the reading. And you get them to read passages, and they would use it, and we would read from it. So I would say between five, six, and seven, but give them a Bible.

Translator: When the child grows up, especially at five, you have to give him a Bible. It's easier for him to understand. I just asked his wife; she said when the child can read by himself, it should be between five and seven, you can let him read the Bible by himself.

Question: Another question. When the child is in the age of 11 or 12, what is the best way to get the Bible? I have two books: one is called "The Book of Genesis" and the other is called "The Book of Genesis". What is the best way to get the Bible? I think the best way is to read the Bible. I think the best way is to read the Bible.

Translator: So his question is, what age should we give our children a cell phone or give them a social media account? He said maybe 11 to 12, what age is the best age?

David D.: Well, a lot of parents give them the cell phone because you're at school and you want them to have it so we can communicate with them and that kind of thing. I think you've got to be very careful about that. A cell phone—you begin to have social media, you begin to text friends at school, and they begin to have a whole relationship, a secret relationship with a whole bunch of people that you don't even know who they are.

Translator: You have to be very careful. When you give him a phone, he will have a social media, right? And other things. In this way, he will have a bunch of friends who are not aware of who he is interacting with.

David D.: You've got access to so many things. You've got access to pornography. You've got access to so many things that you don't want your kids to know. And so... I think culturally or just between their friendships, pretty soon their parents are giving them cell phones at whatever age it may be. And then your kids feel left out: "You know, I don't have a cell phone and I can't communicate." And they feel bad. And they don't know what to do; they feel, you know...

Translator: 因为他们产生非常坏的影响，而且他们的关系是非常密密的，你甚至都不知道，所以这个对孩子的影响会非常大，但是越晚越好。手机是一个非常好的，如果他跟基督徒朋友交谈的交流的话，那么手机是一个非常好的事情。但是在另一面，他会去交往一些你完全不知道的人，有很多密密的关系，而且这个关系是你不想要你的孩子拥有的。好的，这是一个很难的问题。

David D.: Okay, any other questions? This is a very difficult question. Do you have any other questions?

Question: Any comments on what you can teach your children eventually in preparation for marriage?

David D.: Well, I think you should be teaching all along from the time they get a little older. When they're 12 years old, 11 or 12 or 13 years old, you start to teach them about relationships and so forth. And hopefully they are learning from their mothers, learning from your parents, and so on. They learn a lot of responsibilities as young potential partners in marriage to teach.

I think there's some good material, and we had our children go through it when they were older teens. And it's called—what is it called? There's one for men, one for women. You remember, Faith? Every Young Man's Battle and Every Young Woman's Battle. Every Young Man's Battle—and I forget the author—and Every Young Woman's [Battle], kind of the temptations that women have and some of the struggles they have as they get older, temptations and the battle that women have. So those are two good resources.

Translator: The book is about the children you want to teach. You have to teach them from the age of 12 to 13. And as parents, the relationship between you and your spouse has a very big impact on them. They want to see you as a role model. Similarly, you can let the child read some books. One of the books is about the war between men and women. Who is the author of the book? Is it about the child or the man? What kind of temptation do they have after they get married? What kind of struggle do they have in front of them?

David D.: Okay, I think we've had a long session here. So we're going to stop and take a little break. And anything needs to be said, Harold?

Harold Summers: Yes.