

WEEK 7: CHILDREN IN THE HOME
DAY 1: THE GOALS OF PARENTS

1. We have been learning much about the husband and wife. Now we want to think about family life with the children.

We need help with our families during these days. As you study this book, practice these truths in your own home. Then your home can be an example to your church. Preach sermons about the work of husband, wife, and parents. Use the lessons in special meetings. Help your people learn that Christian Family Living is a great blessing.

2. Children can bring their parents much joy. They are a special blessing which God usually gives to marriage. But remember that children do not make the marriage. If God does not give this blessing, the marriage can still be complete. If he does give this blessing, we should remember that children are a gift from God.

Psalm 127:3:

Lo, sons (and daughters) are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Have you remembered to thank God for each of your children? _____

3. We know that our children are gifts from God. We are thankful to him. God gives us our children, but he wants them to serve him. God does not give them so we can keep them for ourselves to use. He gives them to us to raise for his glory. Today we will learn:

Our children really belong to God.

God wants us to have two goals for them.

- (1) To receive Christ as Saviour.
- (2) To follow God's plan for their lives.

To whom do our children belong first? _____

4. Our children first belong to God. He gives them to us to raise for him and his glory. All that we have belongs to God. This means our children too. God wants us to care for our children and teach them. They do not belong to us to use for ourselves. But when we raise them for God, he gives us much joy and blessing.

Besides the parents, who in the family does God want to serve him?

5. God wants the children to serve him. Our children first belong to God. He gives them to us to raise for his glory.

Stanley did well in his secondary school exams. Now he believes God is calling him to be a pastor. His father is a church member. But he does not want Stanley to be a pastor. He wants him to be in business so he can help pay school fees for his brothers. The father said, "I raised you to help me in my old age."

Do you think this father is doing right by refusing to let Stanley be a pastor?

What has the father forgotten? _____

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6. He has forgotten that our children belong first to God. We must think about our goals in raising the children God has given. We have many goals. We want them to be healthy, to learn well and work well with others. All people have these goals. But as Christians we have special goals for our children. We want them:

- (1) To receive Christ as Saviour.
- (2) To follow God's plan for their lives.

Who should we want our children to serve first — ourselves, or God?

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7. We want our children to serve God. They really belong to him first. He has given them to us to raise for him. To do this we must have good goals.

Silas and Susan have a son, Muli. They wanted Muli to receive Christ as soon as possible. They prayed for him and taught him about God. One day when he was seven years old, Muli came to his father. He said that he wanted to accept Jesus as his Saviour. Silas and Susan were very happy that Muli received Christ.

What was the first goal that Muli's parents had for him? (1) _____

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8. Their first goal for him was: To receive Christ as Saviour. They also had the second goal: To follow God's plan for his life.

Silas and Susan continued to pray for Muli. They taught him and encouraged him. They often talked to him about finding God's will. After teacher training he went to higher school to study the Bible. Then Muli heard of some tribes who needed an evangelist. He decided to go to them. He did not receive much money but he was happy in the work. His parents were happy because he had found the right plan for his life.

Whose plan did Muli's parents want him to follow? _____

9. They wanted Muli to follow God's plan for his life. They knew that Muli was a gift from God to them. They knew that he first belonged to God. They worked to raise Muli for God's glory. The parents did not think first about getting money from him. They trusted God to care for them in their old age.

Muli's parents had two goals for him. What was the second, which tells what they wanted Muli to follow?

(1) To receive Christ as Saviour.

(2) _____

10. They wanted him to follow God's plan for his life. In some tribes parents think of their children as their own riches. They think of what they will receive from their children. They send their children to school so they will get money from them later. Their goal is that their children bring riches to their parents.

Should Christian parents follow that goal, or the goal that the children follow God's plan for their lives? _____

11. Christian parents should have the goal for their children: To follow God's plan for their lives. They have different goals from worldly parents. Worldly parents want their children to serve them. They depend on their children for help. But true christian parents trust God for the time to come. They do not keep the children for themselves. They want each child to serve God in the way God chooses.

Who will care for our old age if our children cannot give us money? _____

12. God will care for us. Some parents have a special service in the church to give their baby to God. While the child is still young the parents promise to raise him for God. They thank God for giving them the child. In a special meeting they give the child back to God for his glory. They have the two goals which we are learning.

What should be the first goal of parents for their child?

(1) _____

(2) To follow God's plan for his life.

13. First they want him: To receive Christ as Saviour. To give the baby to God in a special meeting is not a magic act. Instead it is a promise to raise the child in a good way. It is not only asking God to care for the child. It is giving him back to God for his work.

Mark had a pretty daughter who was good in school work. She accepted Jesus as her Saviour when she was young. She loved the Lord and obeyed him. Mark spent much money sending his daughter to school. She became a nurse. Later she wanted to marry a pastor working in a place far from town. She felt it was God's plan for her to help in this work. Mark and his wife were happy about this.

What is the second goal parents should have for their children.

(1) To receive Christ as Saviour.

(2) _____

14. The second goal we should have for them is: To follow God's plan for their lives. To give the child to God does not mean that he must become a pastor. But it does mean that the child is free to do what God wants. Each child should be free to follow God's plan. This may mean a sacrifice for the parents.

Mark had the right goals for his daughter. He was happy for her to marry the Christian pastor. But the girl's uncles wanted to ask much money for the girl. The young pastor could not pay it. So Mark refused to ask a large amount. He wanted the girl to follow God's plan for her life.

What did Mark sacrifice so that his daughter was free to follow God's plan?

15. He sacrificed money. He did not ask much money for his daughter to be married.

Elijah was a Christian farmer. He had a small coffee farm and some cattle in Kenya. He had many needs for more money. But when he talked to his children he did not always talk about money. Instead he talked about the need for more pastors in the church. The family talked together about ways to serve God as teachers and business men. He urged each child to serve God in the work God asked of them.

What two goals should Christian parents have for their children?

(1) _____

(2) _____

16. We should have these goals for them: To receive Christ as Saviour, and to follow God's plan for their lives.

Joseph was a Christian. He had three sons. They were doing very well in school. When they were at home Joseph often said that the family needed more money. He urged the boys to work hard and pass their school work well. He told them to get high paying jobs and help the family with money.

What was Joseph's goal for his family? _____

If you could talk to Joseph, what would you tell him? _____

17. Be ready to share your answers in class.

To whom do our children belong first? _____

What two goals should Christian parents have for their children?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 7: CHILDREN IN THE HOME
DAY 2: PARENTS MUST TEACH THEIR CHILDREN

1. To whom do our children belong first? _____

What two goals should Christian parents have for their children?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Our children first belong to God. Our goals for them should be to receive Christ as Saviour and to follow God's plan for their lives.

Today we will see that parents have the work of teaching their children. Children do not accept Jesus as Saviour without help. They do not easily follow God's plan. If they are left to themselves they will go far away from God. Today we learn:

From Deuteronomy 6:6-7,
parents must teach their
children without fail.

What are some things children meet that take them away from following God?

3. Be ready to talk about this. You may have written: Temptations of the world, bad friends, their own desires, or lies from Satan. The Bible says that we face temptations from the world, from ourselves, and from the devil. Children need much teaching in order to grow up to please God.

Who have the work of teaching their children? _____

4. Parents have this work. There are many things which can keep a child from following God's plan. That is why God has put children in a home with father and mother. God has given each child two people to care for him. A child lives in his home for many years. He depends on his parents. God planned this so parents could teach their children.

What do children need if they are to grow up pleasing to God?

5. Children need teaching. Parents have the great work of teaching them. Let us read God's word to parents about this.

Take your Bible now and read Deuteronomy 6:4 to 9. From these verses, who must parents teach without fail?

6. They must teach their children. The home is the place where children learn best. In school they can learn things like numbers, reading, and writing. But in the home they learn how to live. Look at the verse again.

Deuteronomy 6:7:

and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

In this verse, count the times when you should teach your children. How many times is it during the day?

7. I see four times. They are when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down and when you get up. I think this means you should be teaching all the time. You should not stop. Children should not be left to learn things from the world, or from their friends. Parents and children should spend time together. Then the parents can pass on to their children the truths about God. These truths will change the way the children think and act.

In what important place should the parents teach their children?

8. They should teach them in the home. Teaching their children is the most important work a mother and father have. It is more important than earning much money. It is more important than receiving honour from others. It is more important than being a leader among the people. It is even more important than working for the church.

How do Christian parents feel if they fail to teach, and their children go away from the Lord?

9. When children turn from God, parents feel very sad. God wants our children to grow up in his teachings. That is why he commands us to teach them.

Think of the word command. It is a very strong word. Read these thoughts. Write Yes beside the words which explain the command to teach. Write No beside the words which do not explain the command to teach.

- _____ (1) Do it if you want to.
_____ (2) Do it if you have nothing else to do.
_____ (3) Do it if it is easy and nothing hinders you.
_____ (4) Do it without fail.
-
-

10. I hope you said No for the first three. But you should say Yes for the fourth. A command means we must do it. We must teach without fail. Some people think the work of teaching belongs only to the mother. But this is not true.

Ephesians 6:4:

Fathers, do not provoke (or stir up) your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction (or teaching) of the Lord.

In this verse, who are commanded to bring up their children in the teaching of the Lord?

11. Fathers are commanded to teach their children. This work must not be left only to the mother. Both parents are needed to teach the children. Teaching will take some of the father's time. But he must obey God's command. Teaching must be part of daily life. We must teach God's way so children live it every day.

Can a father teach his children in this way if he is usually gone from home?

12. He cannot. To teach this way, a father must spend much time at home with his children. I know that this is a great problem. Perhaps Christian fathers and mothers will want to change the way they are living. They may feel that because of money they cannot always stay together. But remember God's promise. He tells us that if we put him first, he will do something for us.

Matthew 6:33:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Teaching our children without fail is part of putting God first. In this verse, what does God promise if we put his kingdom first?

13. God promises that the other things will be ours too. This means that if we obey him and teach our children as we should, he will give us what we need. He does not promise that we will be rich. But all our needs will be met. If a father and mother are living apart they should pray about the problem. They should ask God to help them live and teach their children as he commanded. Perhaps the father will find work near home. Perhaps the mother and children will go to live with him.

Which would you rather have — a big salary, or a large farm, or children who are growing strong as Christians?

14. I think you would rather have children growing as Christians. Money or lands do not comfort us if our children are going the wrong way.

From Deuteronomy 6:7, who must teach their children without fail?

15. Parents must do this. Mothers and fathers are commanded by God to teach their children. Think now about Eli in the Old Testament. We learn about him in I Samuel 2 and 3. Eli was a priest. He himself was a good man. He also raised young Samuel well. But Eli's own sons were very sinful. Now see what God said about Eli.

I Samuel 3:13:

I am about to punish his house for ever. For the iniquity (or sin) which he knew, because his sons were blaspheming (or cursing) God, and he did not restrain (or stop) them.

Whom did God judge for not teaching and punishing his sons? _____

16. God judged Eli. It was not enough for him to work well for God. God wanted Eli to raise his own sons well. In the New Testament we have the same teaching. We read that church leaders, pastors and elders must raise their own families well. This gives them wisdom to teach others.

I Timothy 3:4-5:

He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's church?

Who are the first ones that a pastor must teach? _____

From Deuteronomy 6:7, what must every Christian parent do without fail?

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17. A pastor must first teach his own children. Every Christian must teach his children without fail.

Answer these questions with Yes or No.

- _____ (1) If a pastor brings many people to Christ, will God excuse him from teaching his own children?
- _____ (2) If a woman has studied for many years and can earn a big salary, will God excuse her from teaching her own children?
- _____ (3) If a man is well known by everyone and works hard for the church, will God excuse him from teaching his own children?

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18. All of these answers are No.

From Deuteronomy 6:6-7, what must every parent do without fail?

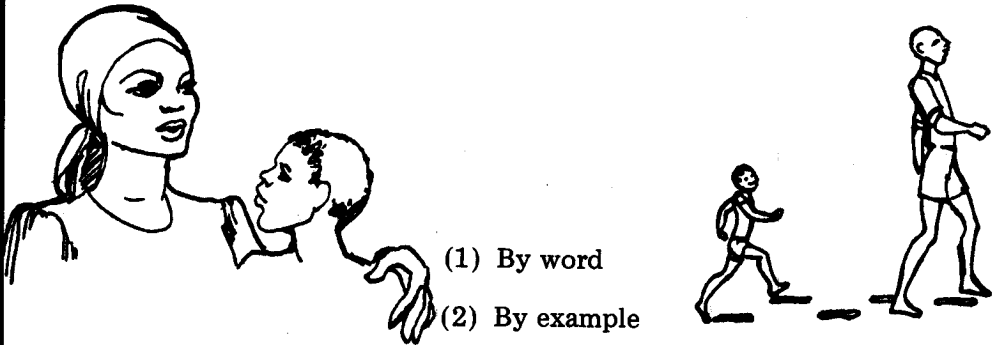
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WEEK 7: CHILDREN IN THE HOME
DAY 3: TEACHING BY WORD AND EXAMPLE

1. Parents are blessed when their children accept Christ and follow God's plan for their lives.

From Deuteronomy 6:7, what must parents do without fail?

2. Parents must teach their children. Today we want to think how parents can teach well. Sometimes parents have tried to teach, but they failed. We want to know why they have failed. Perhaps they did not know that we must teach in two ways. We will learn these two ways of teaching today:



(1) By word

(2) By example

Who are the most important ones to teach children? _____

3. Parents are the most important teachers. They are commanded by God to teach their children. School teachers teach a little. Sunday School teachers also teach a little. But parents teach every day in their home life. Parents must teach by their words and by their example. Here is a verse which shows this. Paul wrote it to his spiritual children at Philippi.

Philippians 4:9:

What you have ... heard and seen in me, do.

What word in this verse shows that Paul taught with words? _____

What words show that Paul taught by his example? _____

4. "Heard" shows that Paul taught by word. "Seen in me" shows that he taught by example. Paul did not just teach the Philippians things to be known in their heads. He taught things which were to be done in their lives. He told them these things in words. Then he showed by his example how to live the words.

What did Paul want the Philippians to do with the things that he taught them?

5. He wanted them to do them. He wanted them to learn to live as Christians. We too want our children to learn in this way. We must teach them so they do what we teach. We must teach them by two ways:

(1) By word. (2) By example.

Stephen wanted his children to be kind to each other. He told them the verse, Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind to one another." When the children played, he sometimes explained how to be kind.

By what way was Stephen teaching? _____

6. He was teaching by word. This is good. We use words to explain things to our children. But words are not enough.

Stephen wanted his children to be kind. He first used words to teach them. He was also a good example to them. The children saw that he was kind to his wife. He was kind to the neighbours. He was kind to the children.

What was the second way Stephen taught his children?

(1) By word. (2) _____

7. He taught them by example. The children needed to see Stephen's example. This showed them how they too could be kind. We need to teach our children by both ways. Words are important. So is our example.

Take your Bible now and read again Deuteronomy 6:6-7. In teaching, what should parents do while sitting, walking, lying down, and rising?

8. They should talk. They should be talking about God's commands. This is one way we teach. By talking we help our children understand truths about God. We explain how to live pleasing to God.

George and his son were walking along the path to their home. As they walked, George told his son about God's great power. He told how God created the trees, rocks, and rivers.

What is the first way George was teaching his son?

- (1) _____ (2) By example.
-
-

9. George was teaching his son by words as they walked. There are many things we need to teach our children. We must teach them about God, his power, his love, his holiness, his mercy. We must teach them about Jesus, the Saviour and Lord. We must teach about his life on earth, his death and resurrection, and his work in heaven now. We need to teach about the church and witnessing and holy living.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Stop now and memorise these two verses. Put a mark here when you can say them. _____ Be ready to say them in class.

10. Some parents cannot teach their children well because they do not know the truths themselves. We need to learn God's word. Then we can teach it to our children.

Say Deuteronomy 6:6 again to yourself. Where does this verse say God's word must be first, before it is taught to children?

11. It must be upon your heart. This means it is deep within our thinking and acting. A parent cannot teach what he does not know. We parents must be studying and obeying God's truth. Then we can teach it to our children. We also need to be helping other parents. They too must know God's truth so they can teach their children.

Does your church help parents to know God's truth so they can teach their children?

12. Some churches do have special classes for parents. Others teach parents together with everyone else. We want our children to do the things we teach them. We teach by our words. But people learn best when they have an example to follow or imitate. To imitate means to try to do exactly what someone else has done. We learn to speak our home language by imitating our parents' example. Boys learn to be men by imitating their fathers' example. Girls love to imitate their mothers. It is easier to learn when we have someone to imitate.

What is the second way we must teach our children?

(1) By word

(2) _____

13. We must teach by example. Paul made himself an example to his spiritual children.

I Corinthians 11:1:

Be imitators (or followers) of me, as I am of Christ.

Think carefully about this verse. Who did Paul tell the people to imitate?

Who did Paul imitate? _____

14. Paul told the people to imitate himself. He was their example. Paul imitated Christ.

This is just what parents should do. Parents must imitate Christ. They must give a good example to their children. Then the children can safely follow them. But some parents do not teach by example. They say good things, but their lives are bad. Their teaching will fail because they do not put the good truths into their lives.

What are two ways in which parents must teach their children?

(1) _____

(2) _____

15. They teach by word and by example. Their words and example must agree.

Thomas wanted his son to be honest. He often told him to speak the truth. He punished him if he found him lying or cheating. But one day the son heard his father lying to their neighbour.

Do you think the son learned to be an honest man? _____

16. The son will imitate his father. He may think that being honest is only for young children. Children must see our example of what we have been teaching them. We must be very careful that our actions are always good. Many times God's word tells Christians to be good examples.

Titus 2:7:

Show yourself in all respects a model (or example) of good deeds, and in your teaching show integrity (or truth).

Who are to be an example to their children? _____

17. Parents must be good examples. Fathers and mothers must show children the right way in daily living. Jesus taught his disciples by word and by example. He wanted them to be humble and willing to serve others. As he walked with them he explained this many times. One day he himself washed the disciples feet. This was the work of a servant. Then Jesus explained to them.

John 13:15:

For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

If you want your children to be humble, what must you be? _____

Can you think of something you tell your children not to do, but you do it? Just write Yes or No.

18. If you want your children to be humble, you must be humble. If you tell your children not to do something, but you do it, you are in trouble. Pray that God will help you change this.

In what two ways must we teach our children?

(1) _____ (2) _____

Write Deuteronomy 6:6-7. _____

WEEK 7: CHILDREN IN THE HOME
DAY 4: TEACHING DILIGENTLY

1. Children are a blessing in the home. They give us hope for the future of our family. Yet they also bring us much work.

In what two ways must we teach our children?

- (1) _____ (2) _____

Say Deuteronomy 6:6-7 to yourself.

2. Parents must teach their children. There is a very important word in the verses you have just said. The word tells how we must teach our children. The word is "diligently." Today we will learn three ways to teach our children diligently:

- (1) Watch for dangers.
- (2) Teach Bible truths they need.
- (3) Help them obey.

Think about what the word "diligent" means. Write some other words that mean the same thing.

3. You may have written one of these: working very hard, using much strength, or being faithful. To be diligent means to put much work into something. The work is not easy but you do it carefully and well. You are faithful to do it always.

What work are we commanded to do diligently? _____

4. We must teach our children diligently. Mrs. Stephen was busy keeping house and farming. She often felt there was not enough time to get everything done. Yet she took time to watch her children. She talked to them and guided them. She knew that teaching her children was an important work God had given her.

What word tells how Mrs. Stephen taught her children? _____

5. She taught them diligently. No other work came first. Teaching our children is our most important work. Even an important man must first teach his own children. In Genesis we read why God chose Abraham.

Genesis 18:19:

I have chosen him, that he may charge (or teach) his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice; so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.

From this verse, what did God choose Abraham to do? _____

6. God chose Abraham to teach his children. He must lead his family to do right. Then Abraham would receive the promise God had made to him. Abraham did other things as well. But his most important work was his own family. God tells us the same.

Write Yes by the words which are right. Write No by those which are wrong.

- _____ (1) If a father gives his children food, clothes, and school fees he has done enough.
- _____ (2) If children are taught in Sunday School, they have enough teaching.
- _____ (3) Teaching their own children is one of the greatest jobs God has given to fathers.

7. You should have said No for the first two. But the third is Yes. Children face many dangers which can turn them from God's way. There are temptations from things like cinema and dances. There are bad things which they hear from friends at school. There are temptations from their own desires. There are three ways to teach diligently:

- (1) Watch for dangers.
- (2) Teach Bible truths they need.
- (3) Help them obey.

What kind of dangers do you think we should watch for? _____

8. Let us talk about this together. We should be watching for things which turn our children from God. Parents need to keep their eyes open to see what their children are doing. This does not mean to be angry and harsh. We must be wise, careful friends to our children. When we see something wrong we must talk kindly about it. We must be loving, but hold to what is right.

What is the first thing we must do to teach diligently? _____

9. We must watch for dangers. Mrs. Samuel saw that her daughter was being pulled away by some new friends. She called her daughter to talk and have tea. She asked the girl about her friends. At first the girl did not want to talk. But she saw that her mother wanted to help her. So she told her about the temptations she was having.

When we watch for dangers, should we be kind or harsh? _____

10. We should be kind. This is very important if we want our children to learn. There are three things we must do to teach diligently.

Write the first and read the others.

(1) _____

(2) Teach Bible truths they need.

(3) Help them obey.

11. First we must watch for dangers. Now think about the second.

(2) Teach Bible truths they need. Our children need the power of God's word to help in daily living. When they have temptation they need Bible truth to show the way. They need it to help them make good choices. All parts of the Bible help someone. But some parts speak especially to children and young people.

Do you think we should try to teach children everything in the Bible, or the parts they specially need now?

12. Find out if the class agrees with your answer. It seems it is important to teach the Bible truths they need now.

When Mrs. Samuel talked with her daughter, she showed her verses in the Bible. The verses talked about being separate from sin and refusing temptation. They were verses which the girls needed very much.

What is the second step Mrs. Samuel followed in teaching her daughter diligently?

(1) Watch for dangers.

(2) _____

13. She first watched for danger in her daughter's life. Then she taught the Bible truths which were needed.

Mr. Omtati's children were still quite young. As he watched them play he saw they were quarreling and fighting. So he went to them. He said, "Your fighting is not good. It spoils your play. The Bible tells us to be kind to one another."

What two steps did Mr. Omtati remember in teaching his children diligently?

(1) _____

(2) _____

14. He remembered: (1) Watch for dangers. (2) Teach Bible truths they need. Now look at the third. (3) Help them obey. When we teach we must be sure children do the things they learn.

Mr. Omtati also did this. He continued to watch his children as they played. When one was too rough he stopped him and helped him to be gentle. When one was selfish he stopped him and helped him share. That evening they talked together about better ways to be kind in their play. They prayed about it together.

What did Mr. Omtati want his children to do with the Bible truths they learned?

15. He wanted them to obey.

Think again about Mr. Samuel and her daughter. Mrs. Samuel wanted to help her daughter obey the Bible truths. They talked about the good things the girls could do with her friends. They talked about what she must refuse. They talked about how the girl could speak to her friends about Jesus. Then they prayed together. They asked for strength and help to do right.

What is the third thing parents must do to teach their children diligently?

- (1) Watch for dangers.
- (2) Teach Bible truths they need.
- (3) _____

16. They must: (3) Help them obey. Mr. and Mrs. Sigu have four children. They often tell them what the Bible says. Obey your parents. Do not lie. Do not steal. Love one another.

But their children do not follow these things. When Mrs. Sigu tells them to bring wood, they continue playing. When Mr. Sigu tells them to stop quarreling, they do not stop. When this happens, the parents do nothing. The children have seen that nothing happens if they disobey.

If you could talk to Mr. and Mrs. Sigu, what would you say to help them?

17. Be ready to share your answer in class.

What are three things we can do to teach diligently?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

WEEK 7: CHILDREN IN THE HOME
DAY 5: THINGS THAT HINDER OUR TEACHING

1. We have seen that parents must teach their children. Say to yourself two ways that parents teach their children.

What three things must we do to teach diligently?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. Two ways we teach are by word and by example. Three things we must do to teach diligently are: Watch for danger, teach Bible truths that are needed, and help them to obey.

Today we want to think about two things that hinder the teaching of parents. They are:

(1) Unwise actions.

(2) Lack of prayer.

Take your Bible now and read Ephesians 6:1 to 4. Read verse 4 again. This verse tells an unwise action. What does the verse tell father not to do?

3. They should not provoke or stir up their children to anger. We should not push our children too much or shout at them. We must not give commands without good reasons. Too many useless words make children angry. This hinders teaching.

Omolo often said bad things about his son, Philip. Philip did his share of work. But Omolo often said that Philip was lazy. Whenever he saw Philip reading, or playing, or resting he scolded him. Then he sent him to work in the garden. Philip began to feel angry at his father.

What unwise action was Omolo doing which God tells fathers not to do?

4. He made his son angry by his unwise actions. Philip learned to stay away from his father. He did not want to hear his harsh words. A father must be careful. He must be wise and kind. He must not give too many commands or too much work. Harsh words and too many commands make children angry. Work that is too much or too hard makes them discouraged. Then they will refuse good teaching.

What do we call the actions which make children angry and hinder teaching?

5. We call them unwise actions. Instead, parents must be wise, just, and kind.

Mr. Samson had many rules for his children. He beat them for every fault. There were so many rules that his sons could not obey all of them. They became discouraged.

Mr. Joshua had a few good rules. The rules he made were very important. He explained to his sons the reasons for the rules. They saw that the rules were good and they remembered them easily.

Which man used wise actions? _____

Which man used unwise actions? _____

6. Mr. Joshua was wise. Mr. Samson was foolish. He made his children angry with too many rules. God wants parents to be wise in teaching their children. He does not want our foolish actions to make them rebel. Remember the verse.

Ephesians 6:4:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

If a father uses wise actions, in whose teaching will he bring up his children?

7. Parents must bring up their children in the teaching of the Lord. Some fathers have the unwise action of being too harsh. A father may be harsh when he is tired from work. When the child comes to ask him something, he answers loudly. He does not take time to listen. He may tell the child to be quiet. Or he may send him away. Then the child feels that his father does not love him.

What is the first thing that hinders parents' teaching?

(1) _____

(2) Lack of prayer.

8. Unwise actions hinder teaching. Here are some unwise actions which can make a child angry.

- _____ Shaming him before others
- _____ Too harsh punishment
- _____ Saying that his work is useless
- _____ Shouting but not taking action
- _____ Having one child whom you love more than others
- _____ Not listening to problems or needs.

Stop now and think of each of these unwise actions. Question yourself to see if you do any of these things. Put a mark by those you need to be careful of.

9. There is another thing which can also hinder our teaching. It is lack of prayer. We need God's help in our teaching. We cannot teach well without him. Every day we should pray that God will help us teach our children.

What is the first thing which hinders parents' teaching?

- (1)
 - (2) Lack of prayer.
-

10. Unwise actions and lack of prayer hinder our teaching. We need to pray for wisdom. There will be times when we are troubled about our children. We will not know what to do or say.

James 1:5:

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

From this verse, who can give us wisdom to teach our children well?

11. God can give us wisdom. We should pray for wisdom to do and say the right things. We should ask God to help us stop foolish actions which hinder our teaching.

We can also pray for each child. God can work in the hearts of our children. If a child rebels, God can work in his heart to help him obey. God can change children's feelings, thoughts, and actions.

What is one thing that parents of a child who rebels can do?

12. They can pray. God is the one who can work inside our hearts. He can help us decide to do his will. We cannot change the hearts of our children, but God can.

Silas often taught his children what is right. But he did not take time to pray for each child. The children listened quietly to Silas. But in their hearts they were rebelling. They did not want to obey. They went their own way.

Silas' teaching was hindered by lack of what? _____

13. Lack of prayer hindered his teaching. He did not ask God to work in the hearts of his children. We cannot teach our children well without God's help and power. We will certainly fail if we do not pray.

What can God do for our children that we cannot do? _____

14. He can change their hearts. Then they will want to obey him.

Kiranga's children grew up well. They were known as Christians at school. They were making good choices for marriage and work. Someone asked Kiranga about his children's good lives. Kiranga said, "God has helped me teach my children. Every day I pray for each child. I also pray that God will give me wisdom to teach them."

What is the second thing that hinders parent's teaching?

(1) Unwise actions

(2) _____

15. Lack of prayer hinders teaching. Kiranga prayed for each child every day. He prayed for wisdom. God helped him in answer to his prayer.

If you have children, write each of their names here.

(1) _____ (5) _____

(2) _____ (6) _____

(3) _____ (7) _____

(4) _____ (8) _____

Stop now and pray for each one. Pray that God will work in their hearts to help them do his will. Pray also that God will give you wisdom. Pray that you will bring them up in God's way.

16. There are two things that can hinder the teaching of our children.

Write them. (1) _____

(2) _____

17. The things which hinder are: Unwise actions and lack of prayer. Remember what Jesus told his disciples.

John 15:5:

apart from me you can do nothing.

This is true of our teaching. We will fail if we try to do it in our own strength. We need to pray every day for our children. Each father and mother should promise: "With God's help I will pray for each of my children every day. I will also pray for God to give me his wisdom to teach them well."

Perhaps you are already doing this, or perhaps you would like to begin now. Put a mark beside the words which tell what you are doing.

_____ (1) I do pray for each of my children every day.

_____ (2) I will begin now to pray for my children each day.

18. What two things hinder parents' teaching?

(1) _____

(2) _____
