

18 Summers

Questions to ask yourself

How can we be more intentional about creating quality time with our children or the young people in our church, free from distractions like phones and media?

What practical steps can we take to pass on our faith relationally, rather than relying solely on weekly church attendance?

How might our priorities need to change to better reflect the values we want to instill in the next generation?

In what ways can we surround our children with godly mentors outside of our immediate family circle, and why is this important?

How can we as a church community better support and equip parents in their role as the primary disciplers of their children?

What does it mean to be a steward of the next generation, both in our families and in our church, and how can we take this responsibility more seriously?

How can we create opportunities for children and young people to see faith lived out beyond just Sunday services?

What strategies can we employ to counteract the enemy's attacks on our children and families?

How can we ensure that we're not just surviving as parents or church leaders, but actively planning and preparing for the spiritual growth of the next generation?

In what ways can we make our church a place where children and youth receive individualized attention and care, rather than getting lost in the crowd?

Devotional based on the message

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Intentional Parenting and Spiritual Legacy

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Devotional: As we reflect on the importance of passing our faith to the next generation, consider how intentional you are in sharing your spiritual journey with your children or younger believers. God instructs us to talk about His commands when we sit at home, walk along the road, lie down, and get up. This isn't about perfection, but consistency. How can you weave discussions about God's love and truth into your daily routines? Perhaps start by sharing a brief prayer or Bible verse at mealtimes, or by having open conversations about how you see God working in your life. Remember, your everyday actions speak volumes about your faith. Ask God to help you be more deliberate in modeling a life of faith for those around you.

Day 2: The Power of God's Word

Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

Devotional: The sermon mentioned striking statistics about the impact of regular Bible reading on various aspects of life. As you read today's passage, reflect on the psalmist's love for God's Word. He treasures it,

meditates on it, and delights in it. How might your life change if you approached Scripture with this same enthusiasm? Consider setting aside time each day to read and reflect on God's Word. Start small if needed - even 10 minutes can make a difference. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive God's truth and to apply it to your life. As you develop this habit, watch for the positive changes it brings to your spiritual life, relationships, and overall well-being.

Day 3: Stewarding the Next Generation

Reading: Psalm 78:1-7

Devotional: Today's passage emphasizes the importance of passing down our faith to future generations. The psalmist speaks of telling the coming generation about God's praiseworthy deeds. Reflect on your own spiritual journey - who were the key people who influenced your faith? How did they do it? Now consider your role in nurturing the faith of others, especially children and youth. You don't have to be a parent to have an impact. Could you volunteer in children's ministry, mentor a young person, or simply take time to encourage the young people you encounter? Pray for wisdom and opportunities to invest in the next generation, sharing the hope and love of Christ with them.

Day 4: God's Relentless Love

Reading: Romans 8:35-39

Devotional: The sermon touched on God's goodness constantly pursuing us. Today's passage beautifully illustrates the relentless nature of God's love. No matter what circumstances we face, nothing can separate us from His love. Take a moment to reflect on times when you've felt distant from God or wondered if He still cared. Now, let the truth of this passage wash over you. God's love for you is unstoppable, unshakeable, and eternal. How might your life look different if you truly lived in the light of this amazing love? Ask God to help you internalize this truth and to give you opportunities to share His love with others who may be feeling alone or forgotten.

Day 5: Being Intentional in Our Spiritual Walk

Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Devotional: The sermon emphasized the importance of being intentional rather than operating on autopilot in our spiritual lives and parenting. Today's passage calls us to be careful how we live - "not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity." Reflect on areas of your life where you might be operating on autopilot spiritually. Are there habits or patterns that need to change? Consider setting specific, achievable goals for your spiritual growth. This might involve scheduling regular prayer times, joining a small group, or finding ways to serve others. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in making wise choices with your time and to help you seize opportunities to grow in your faith and impact others for Christ.