

PARENTING WELL

REASONS - DEUTERONOMY 6:8-9

J.K. JONES JR.

"The most defining characteristic of Generation Z is that it is arguably the first generation in the West (certainly in the United States) that will have been raised in a post-Christian context. As a result, it is the first post-Christian generation" (James Emery White, Meet Generation Z, pg. 49).

Big Idea: Parenting Well = Remembering God Well.

What will help my family remember God well?

Two words are vital for all of us, both taken from the Shema...

1. "Bind"
2. "Write"

Both words point to the holy activity of "remembering" – (500 plus times in Scripture).

What Israel did:

1. "phylacteries/tefillin" (explain)
2. "mezuzahs" (explain)

What can we do to help our family remember well and find reasons for life-long apprenticeships with Jesus? How do we cement our children's identity as "hidden in Christ" (Colossians 3:3)?

Generation Z children are portrayed by wise observers as experiencing "an epidemic of isolation." Lots of meaningful touches from parents and grandparents are essential...

Key – showing our family God in everything we do and everything we say is vital. Discipleship is our goal: Parenting well by hearing God well, loving and teaching God well, talking about God well, and remembering God well.

Story: Letter to Preston...

DISCUSSION:

1. Re-read Deuteronomy 6:8-9. Why are so many Christian families prone to spiritual amnesia? How are you understanding culture's battle with the church?
2. "Bind" and "write" are "remembering" words. J.K. said there were 500 plus references to the necessity of remembering God well? What are some of the ways you are trying to do that in life of your family? How can emails, texts, cards, phone calls, letters, etc., help your family remember God well?
3. The experts say Generational Z, as well as Millennials, are experiencing an "epidemic of isolation." How can the Christian family respond to that crisis?
4. What are your takeaways from the Kalmes' family interview?
5. Think back through the 4 teachings on parenting well. What is staying with you? What tangible applications are you making to parenting well? What is your take-away?

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RESOURCES

WEBSITES:

Eastview.church/RNM - RightNow Media
Family.org - Focus on the Family
Heartlightministries.org - Mark Gregston
Homeward.com - Jim Burns
Protectyoungminds.org - Kristen A. Jensen
Rethink.org - Parent Cue Blog (Check out their app, too!)
Gotquestions.org

BOOKS:

5 Love Languages of Children by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell
52 Creative Family Time Experiences by Tim Smith
It Starts at Home by Kurt Bruner
Love and Respect in the Family by Emerson Eggerichs
Parent Handbook by Operation Parent
Parenting by Paul David Tripp
Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp
Single Parenting That Works by Kevin Leman
Spiritual Parenting by Michelle Anthony
Tech-Savvy Parenting by Brian Housmann
Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch
Touchy Subjects by Gross and Dean
Tough Guys and Drama Queens by Mark Gregston
Visionary Parenting by Rob Rienow