



The "Oh Yeah!"

Letter

Don't Let it Slip Away

by Tim Loper

Why do the sons and daughters of priests, kings, pastor's kids and layman often fall out of step with their Godly parents? Why is it so rare to find a family where, generation after generation, they all follow God? Besides "free will" and everyone having his own choice, what do we as parents do, or not do, that may allow the next generation to slip away?

The history of the Israelites coming out of Egypt and through the Period of the Judges and the Period of the Kings is an intriguing, repeating story of the process that can befall us in our parenting and in the generations following us. The Old Testament, from Moses to David to all the kings of Israel and Judah, experienced the cycle. An intimate relationship with God was followed by a generation that knew *of* Him, but didn't know Him personally, followed by a generation that didn't know Him at all.

So what happened in the Old Testament? So what happens now? Why do the generations fall away? I believe there are several reasons: 1) Forgetting the Deliverance of the Past, 2) Lack Of Instruction, 3) Lack of Obedience.

Forgetting the Deliverance of the Past.

We have often heard taught at our church that the first step to backsliding is forgetting what God has done for you. It could be forgetting the deliverance from a sin that entangled us or forgetting the blessings or healings that God has given us. Either way, when we forget that it was God that brought about what is good, we dishonor Him and our hearts slip away. Then the hearts of our children will too.

Lack of Instruction.

The generation of Israelites that were delivered from starvation and thirst in the desert and who were given power over the enemies in the trek across the desert, did not successfully teach their children the lessons of the desert. They also failed in teaching the Law to their children. Perhaps they taught the Law, but not in relationship to God, that is, not with the reason why. *Deut 6:7 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.*

Lack of Obedience.

God promised David that his lineage would always be king over Israel, as long as his sons followed Him. (*II Sam 7:11-16*) Solomon started out wise and devoted to God, he



* It's SPRING AND THE END OF SCHOOL IS IN SIGHT! START PLANNING NOW FOR A FUN-PACKED SUMMER FULL OF LEARNING AND PLAYING! (SEE "WHAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW ALONG THE WAY" BY GAIL MARTIN)
* KEEP UP YOUR COUCHTIME! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ITS IMPORTANCE OR POWER!
* HOLD YOUR CHILD CLOSE (EVERY AGE) AND HAVE A LONG TALK WITH THEM TODAY!



Marriage

As marriage counselors, we have heard for years that the three main things couples argue over are money, sex and kids. For Tim and me it's kids.

Now I know most of you reading this are raising your eyebrows right now in shock that the same people who taught you "Growing Kids" together might ever disagree about something we so adamantly agree about in theory! Sorry to burst your bubble, but it's true. I've often fantasized that once the kids are grown, we'll never argue again since we seem to never argue when it's just the two of us alone together.

The truth is, we agree on where we want our kids to go and the standard they should reach, but sometimes it is harder to agree on the day to day details. I'm sure that like most of you, there is one in your parenting partnership who tends to be more laid back and inconsistent and one who tends to be a bit over anxious about dotting all the "i's" and crossing all the "t's."

All of this is just another reason Tim and I teach: to stay on the same page as much as possible. It is also why we recommend taking the class as often as possible!

So please give yourselves a break if you think you are failing because you don't always agree - you are normal! And think about taking the class again!



A Parenting Treasure From The Word

"The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before You." Ps 102:28 Is this a promise you would like to claim for your family? What does it require of you as the parent? Go be God's servant. That means obedience, especially in parenting!



FUN Idea OF the Quarter

Okay, this might not sound like the most FUN idea, but perhaps it WILL make a chore more FUN. Spring Cleaning! Try to contain your excitement! It's something that MUST be done, but if you make it FUN it can be done faster and with a lot less complaining. First, separate the tasks that need to be done among each member of the family. Keep in mind the specific tasks your individual children need to learn. This may be the perfect opportunity to teach your 10 year old how to polish silver or brass! Yippee! Second, mark the day on your calendar and make sure nothing (or little) else gets planned on that day. Third, plan FUN things for the day. Make or purchase a special (and quick) breakfast food and a FUN lunch and dinner. Let the kids pick out some of their favorite music and play it LOUD! Finally, do something special, relaxing and FUN at the end of the day. We've gone to the movies or purchased one they've been dying to have. If you're thinking you will still have complaints, simply have a small extra chore or two in mind that can be passed out to complainers. They'll get the hint! So, meet the challenge with enthusiasm! You'll have a clean home and teach team work at the same time!

CONTACT US



timami@juno.com



1026 W. Woodman Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85283



480.491.9331

ended with his faith diluted by idols and disillusioned by life. Solomon didn't stay the course of obedience, he didn't stick to God's commands. His son, Rehoboam, forgot God altogether and followed the short-sighted advice of his fellow young men and lost most of the kingdom to Jeroboam. God's promises for personal blessing and long life are conditional, we cannot expect God's blessings on a disobedient life. When we walk in faithfulness to our calling to raise Godly children, when we personally obey him in all areas as well, we have the promises of God on our side: that when our children are old, they will still be serving God. *Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

The good news is that this cycle, Intimate – Distant – Detached, is not a given. It doesn't have to happen that way. The New Covenant in Christ Jesus

opens the door for each of us to know the reasons why and to have the personal experiences of God's deliverance and forgiveness to help us walk close with him and to pass that on to our children.

In order to pass the things of God on to our children, we must have a personal, intimate relationship with God ourselves. The Israelites were afraid to become personally intimate with the God of Abraham and Moses. They wanted Moses to be the one God spoke to. They were afraid they couldn't see God as Moses had and live to see the next day. Now, by the grace of God and the work of His Son Jesus Christ we can know God, we have no need for someone between us and God, we can be personally intimate with the Creator.

We can then share our experience, what God has done in our lives, to our children and our grand children. Remember the GKGW teaching supplement, "Memorials"?

The goal in parenting is to raise children who live Godly lives as young children, as adolescents, as teenagers, as adults, as parents and as senior citizens. Throughout their lives they effect those around them for the gospel and as parents, they should effect the next generation to do the same. Nothing should be lost from one generation to the next. In fact, each generation should improve on the previous.

Stop and pray and see if there are any of the three areas where your efforts have lagged, then take action so none of your efforts slip away.



Quotes Worth Remembering

"What a father says to his children is not heard by the word, but it will be heard by posterity"

~ Jean Paul Richter

Tim & Ami Loper
1026 West Woodman Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283