Are We Helping Them Lose Faith?

Terry Francis · Deuteronomy 6:4–9 · Series: **A Faith of Your Own**

INTRODUCTION

- We put emphasis on all the circumstances and the environment, and we've stopped teaching the word of God.
- Only 11% of those surveyed said that when they were children, strong faith was exemplified in the home, and vibrant Christianity was practiced and taught.
- We don't have a crisis among young people in the church. We have a crisis among parents.

1 Teach Them

Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Ephesians 6:4

- You shall teach them diligently to your children. You shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, when you rise.
- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- It is not the job of the church, of the elders, the Sunday school teacher, and the preacher to handle your child's spiritual education.
- God's plan, fathers, was for you to teach your children. And to teach them in every place in every way possible.
- You can have the best preacher in the world, and he can't save your children.

2 Convert Them

Acts 10; 2 Corinthians 5:16–21; Romans 12:1–2

- Teaching somebody is not the same thing as converting them.
- Converting them is helping them to become a disciple, a follower. One who obeys the gospel.
- We don't need good kids. We need Christians. Christians go to heaven, not good kids.
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come.
- What I want for my kids is for them to be a new creation. To be reconciled to God.

3 Equip Them

Ephesians 4:11–12; 2 Timothy 3:14–17

- When it comes to sports, I have done everything I can do to equip my children. What have I done to equip my children when it comes to serving God?
- Long before the church equips Christians, their parents should. The first leaders your children know are you.

- From childhood you've been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Timothy's father wasn't a believer. So you know who stepped up? His mother and his grandmother. But he was taught.

4 Show Them

- You're not going to be effective in any of that if you don't actually show them the right example.
- You want to get young people to step up, challenge them, raise the expectations.
- I can't expect my kid to love the church when on the way home, all he hears me and my wife do is tear down the church.
- Mom and dad, if you're a pew potato, guess what your kids are going to be? They're not going to be pupotatoes, they're going to be gone.
- I want them to see that I believe in Jesus and I do what he says to do, and that's what they need to do too.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I encourage you to teach your children, convert them, equip them, and show them.**

MY NOTES