Shade for Our Children

Robert Harkrider · Genesis 18:19

INTRODUCTION

- In Genesis chapter 12, verses 1, 2, and 3 is found one of the more significant promises that God made to any man.
- How many times have we ever thought about why God selected Abraham for such a great promise as this?
- God will say of Abraham, I know him. What would he do? He will teach his children. What an important characteristic of every parent.

1 One Generation Plants Trees, Another Gets the Shade

2 Timothy 1:5; Judges 2:10; Exodus 20:5

- Have we planted the kind of trees that will help our children to guard themselves against the anti-God attitudes or values that are in our society today?
- The scripture teaches how that our life really influences our children as well as our grandchildren.
- There arose another generation after them which knew not the Lord. Nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.
- The effect may reach to the third and fourth generation. That's our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren.
- We neither inherit sins nor righteousness. But what he's saying is the consequences of a parent may have its effect.

2 Patterns of Conduct Will Be Imitated

Romans 1:19–28

- What kind of influence are you having on your family now? What kind of shade are you providing for your children?
- When they knew God, they glorified him not as God. Neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- I want you to notice how sin has a way of growing worse.
- God gave them over to a reprobate mind. And that word reprobate mind carries the idea that they lost any sense of right and wrong.
- Indeed, the patterns of conduct may be imitated, even from the patterns set by our parents.

3 Develop a Well-Defined Life of Faith

1 Peter 3:15; Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 5:25

- We need to know what we believe and know why we believe it.
- Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is within you.

- The second is be single-minded about putting God first.
- You'll never fool your children. Your children know you.
- But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Let that be our disposition and our attitude.
- We need to maintain a loving relationship with our spouse. A tree is not healthy unless it has a good root system.

4 Parenting Is Not for Cowards

1 Samuel 3; Proverbs 1

- If we're going to provide shade for our children, we need to recognize that parenting is not for cowards.
- Don't wait until a child is 15 or 16 to start trying to train. Start when they're young.
- Restrain them when they do wrong.
- He said the right words, but it was only talk. He did not restrain when he should have restrained.
- Command them to keep the way of the Lord, like God said Abraham will do.
- Don't wait until they learn all the secular material that's out here. Start with the wisdom of God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I hope as parents we'll stop and think about our influence on our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren. And each of us, our lives will be as a good example to others, even other parents.**

MY NOTES