

"CHILDREN WHO FOLLOW GOD"

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Bishop Edward A. Smith

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: Understand the blessing and power of God....by following Him.

Life Group Leader preparation:

IT IS THE PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE OWNERSHIP IN DIRECTING THEIR BIOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL CHILDREN TO FOLLOW GOD.

Genesis 18:19 NIV

“For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

- Abraham was a man that could be trusted to direct his children
- He would command his children to worship and serve God

Daniel 11:32 – but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits”

- Children who follow God – Know God
- Children who know God – Do exploits: become strong people of faith

Ownership – Parents must take ownership in raising their children. The Bible says specifically, Parents – Love your children, discipline your children.

- Be intentional.
- Be an example.

WEEK #1: Children Who Follow God – OBEY HIS WORD

Discussion Question: As a young man, do you think Daniel responded quickly or did he have to pray before giving the eunuch his answer? Daniel 1:1-21

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The Bible doesn't tell us who Daniel's parents were, but we do know he came from royalty; and had obviously been instructed to obey the laws of God concerning food and diet before he was taken captive.

Daniel 1:3 – And the king spoke unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring *certain* of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Daniel 1:17 – As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Obedience: The food the King of Babylon wanted them to eat was probably prohibited by the Jewish Law, and even though they were taken captive and away from their home they WOULD NOT DISOBEY GOD'S LAWS.

Followers of God do what is right in His sight.

Deuteronomy 6:18 – Children who follow God...Do what is right

Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors.

Discussion: How can we as adults help children to be overcomers like Daniel?

Deuteronomy 6:1-7

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the children to teach them to follow the word and ways of the Lord...

Genesis 12:1-3

God has families on His mind. He blessed Abraham to be a blessing to his family and all families of the Earth.

If we value families, then we will value marriage and make our home a place for developing children who see God in their home...

Discussion: What does modeling Godly behavior look like?

WEEK #2: EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE & POWER OF GOD

Discussion Question: Describe an environment that will help children follow God.

MAINTAINING A FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT

Daniel taken captive to Babylon – Daniel 1:1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of

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his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. Daniel and the three other young men were taken captive to a land where the people did not worship Jehovah God....

By believing God’s Word:

I John 5:4 – “For whatever is born of God **overcometh the world**: and this is the **victory that overcomes the world**, even our faith.”

I John 5:5 – Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

We cannot believe what is false and live a life that is false....

Discussion: How can we improve the environment...

- AT HOME...how do we live?
- WITH FRIENDS...how do we interact?
- IN THE WORKPLACE...?
- WHEN YOU PRAY?
- HOW DO YOU HANDLE ANGER?

Genesis 17:15-16

God told Abraham that kings or leaders would come out of Sarah. We should see our children as leaders in their careers and prepare them to lead as Godly/kingdom leaders...

Genesis 18:18-19

God knew that Abraham would train his children in the ways of the Lord...

Question: What does God know about you, as it pertains to training up your children or spiritual children?

WEEK #3: CHILDREN WHO FOLLOW GOD KNOW HE IS FAITHFUL

Discussion Question: How do we maintain our faithfulness to God in ungodly, negative environments or situations?

KNOW THAT GOD HAS A PLAN AND A PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE
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- Malachi 3:6 For I the LORD do not change. So, you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.
- James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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- 1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered awhile make you perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.

Daniel Maintained His Faithfulness to God – Dan 1:8-16

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore, he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which *are* of your sort? Then shall ye make *me* endanger my head to the king. Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

So, he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus, Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

“For we walk by faith not by sight....2 Cor 5:7

- Phil 4:6-7 – Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Discussion: All children are not raised in a godly environment; how can you help?

Let's discuss how a single woman or single man can diligently raise her children to follow God...

- 2 Timothy 1:5 NASB “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”

******Life Group Assignment for Week #4: Read about how Esther, Moses, Jesus and Daniel were raised and come prepared to discuss next week.***

Week #4 – CHILDREN WHO FOLLOW GOD SEEK HIS WISDOM

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The Lord has promised to give us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us to eternal life (2 Peter 1:3).

DEPEND UPON GOD FOR WISDOM

- Dan 1:17 – As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.
- Dan 1:20 – And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm. And Daniel continued *even* unto the first year of king Cyrus.

WHEN NO ONE COULD INTERPRET THE KING’S DREAM

- For this cause the king was angry and very furious and commanded to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise *men* should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Children who follow God always seek God’s help and the help and prayers of others

- Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him. – Daniel 2:22

- The *secret things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children forever, that *we* may do all the words of this law. Deut 29:29

Turn men’s hearts to God – Daniel 2:47-49

Of a truth *it is*, that your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

Children who follow God have Favor

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

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Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel *sat* in the gate of the king.

Children don't come out of the womb following God: The Bible says train them in the way they should go and when they are old they won't depart from (way they should go) it.

Paul said: “follow me as I follow Christ”. (Parents should be an example)

Don't walk in condemnation if your children are not following God yet!

- Continue with prayer and supplication; let your request be made known unto God.
- Commit your children unto God, and he will establish their path

Proverbs 2:1-6

Solomon took time to teach his son the word and wisdom of God

Psalm 78:1-7

The fathers, even spiritual fathers and mothers, should pass on God's word onto the next generation.... Why?

1. That they set their hope in God
2. That they not forget the works of God
3. That they keep God's commandments, His word

Discussion Question: Share how praying in tongues & listening to the voice of God is wise....