

DISCIPLE-MAKING AT HOME: STARTING WITH HOW – PART 3

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One thing I often hear from parents like you and appreciate the sacrifices you make is that you always want the best for your children. A New York Times article on December 25, 2018 carries the headline "The Relentlessness of Modern Parenting." To provide the best and train up their children, many parents exhaust themselves to take their kids to tutoring, organized sports, etc. so that they can have a better future.

Similarly, you desire the next generation to walk with God, and **Deuteronomy 6** teaches about training up the children this way. In my last blog, I explain that adults are to listen to and follow God's words first in every turn according to **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. The next step then is to train up the children in v7. The Hebrew word that is translated variously as "train up", "impress," or "teach" is **shaman**. The word appears only 9 times in the Old Testament, and in all other 8 occurrences (Deuteronomy 32:41; Psalm 45:5; 64:3; 73:21; 120:4; 140:3; Proverbs 25:18; Isaiah 5:28), the meanings are "to sharpen," or "to be pierced." Thus, the idea is to **sharpen** the children like one would sharpen a sword. For example, you could immerse your children completely in God's Word to make them sharp, e.g. to memorize, recite, and discuss it repeatedly. As a result, God's Word becomes inseparable, and integral to every aspect of their daily lives. Enrolling in Bible Quiz is one sure way to sharpen the children in God's Word. 😊



By discussing and teaching God's Word at home (vv7-9), you will make the Bible come alive to the children. When they ask questions, you can discuss with them and give guidance. Also, you can share about God's grace and promise, His strength for you to meet challenges, and His comfort in time of hardship and trouble.



Also, you could make use of these online resources to help you lead family devotion at home:

- Free lesson plans: <https://childrensministry.com/free-sunday-school-lessons/>
- Family-friendly online entertainment: <https://info.focusonthefamily.ca/focus-at-home>
- Short video clips on parenting from Saddleback Parents' Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSxMFKLz71gt9qvwyFM3I2w/videos>

To grow spiritually, please check out the Pastor's Corner (<https://emc.ecac.ca/pastors-corner/>) and JMC's Devotions (<https://emc.ecac.ca/jmc-devotionals/>).