

February 1, 2026 (Lesson 9)

COMMUNICATE GOD'S TRUTH IN THE HOME

1. **Live By and Teach God's Truth** (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
2. **Testify of God's Great Works** (Psalm 78:1-7)
3. **Leave a Legacy of Faith** (2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:13-17)

Central Truth: Parents should live by and communicate the truths of Scripture.

Focus: Recognize and affirm the importance of communicating God's truth in the home.

Evangelism Emphasis: The proclamation and practice of God's truth will serve as a witness to the unbeliever.

Golden Text: "That from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Ideas and opinions about God are as varied as the many flavors of ice cream. However, we don't get to create or choose what we want to know or believe about God. He has definitively revealed Himself through the Scriptures. Truths about God were authenticated through inspired writings that spanned thousands of years. The ancient Hebrews were given specific information about who God is, what His plans were for them, and how He expected them to live in the covenant relationship He established with them.

These truths distinguished them from other nations of the world and provided a model for those who would ultimately be drawn to the one true God. The values that marked believing communities were passed on to succeeding generations through the family foremost. Along with life skills and human interaction, children were taught the reality and necessity of spiritual connection with God. The full experience of life would not be complete without this information. For those communities, knowing and relating to God was central to their existence.

In today's world we have no less an incumbent duty to ensure our children know, understand, and worship God. The faith passed down to us must be given to our offspring as well. Though we may have, and often depend on, religious institutions and ministries to aid our children in the knowledge of God, their first exposure must come from their parents and other family members. This responsibility is highlighted in the instructions given by God through Moses and the other

Biblical writers. They are as necessary now as they were then. In a world of growing misconceptions and error concerning God, it is imperative His truth be primarily communicated in the homes of believers.

1. LIVE BY AND TEACH GOD'S TRUTH

A. Reverence and Love God (Deuteronomy 6:1-5)

¹ Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: ² That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: ⁵ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Prior to entering the Promised Land, Abraham's descendants needed to be reminded about the conditions of their covenant with God. At this juncture, the generation that had experienced the exodus from Egypt had died in the wilderness due to their unbelief and rebellion. Their children were now positioned to inherit what God had prepared but were warned not to repeat the sins of their fathers.

The forty years of wandering in the wilderness were God's judgment for the actions of the previous generation. Moses' instructions included commandments that were to be obeyed out of reverence for God. The attitudes and behavior of the people would need to be guided by His divine principles. Strict adherence to the statutes would demonstrate their loyalty and respect for God. It would also result in a good quality of life and length of days.

Jesus would later reiterate that loving God with all one's heart, soul, and might (v. 5) was the greatest commandment (Matt. 22:37-38). God was to be the primary object of their affection and

loyalty. His truth was to be their chief source of knowledge and revelation. Their lives were to be intentionally oriented around Him.

The same requirements are expected of believers today. The Bible should be central to our lives. The commandments, principles, and instructions of God's Word should inform and guide how we live and interact with others. Our obedience to His Word certifies our love, respect, and loyalty to Him. His promises of blessings and favor will manifest in our lives as we faithfully comply with His will.

Modern scientific and sociological studies have verified the benefits of religious faith and expression, as indicated by God millennia ago. Mayo Clinic research has found that believers tend to enjoy "better health outcomes, including greater longevity, coping skills, and health-related quality of life (even during terminal illness) and less anxiety, depression, and suicide" (Nicole Fisher, *Forbes.com*).

A Parent's Duty

It is not a parent's responsibility to make sure they have godly children. It is a parent's responsibility to make sure their children have godly parents.—Unknown

B. Teach Your Children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

In addition to demonstrating reverence and love for God through their obedience to His statutes, the Hebrews were tasked with instructing their children in His laws and commandments. Children were to be trained in the rituals and ceremonies of worship, and in the behavioral practices that revealed their faith. This would encourage succeeding generations to serve the God of their

fathers. At every opportunity and in every aspect of life, parents were to intentionally communicate God's truth. The history of their interaction with God and His expectations of Israel were to be ingrained in their hearts. They were to be so disciplined about teaching their children that it would be as routine to their lives as sitting, walking, sleeping, or waking.

The Hebrews developed the practice of wearing *phylacteries* (small boxes containing Scriptures on parchment) tied to their hands or foreheads (v. 8). These served as visible signs and reminders of the laws of God. Over time, elaborate ceremonies and pronouncements of blessings attended the wearing of these boxes (also known as *tefillin*). The public actions of the Pharisees were condemned by Jesus as a pretentious show (Matt. 23:5). Some of them were wearing large boxes intended to advertise their high level of spirituality. A proper understanding of the hand and eyes reference is that God's Word should be so integral to our lives that it guides our actions and shapes our perspectives.

In addition to attaching God's Word to their physical bodies as reminders of its significance, the Israelites were instructed to display Scriptures in their homes. *Mezuzah* referred to the practice of nailing a small container with a passage of Scripture to a doorpost. The symbolism of inscribing Scriptures on the posts of the homes and gates of the city points to the foundational significance of God and His Word to our lives and security. As Psalm 127:1 says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

Our homes should be established on the principles and teachings of God. By honoring His Word and way in how we live, our children observe and learn to do the same. Through our faithful instruction and demonstration of reverence for the Word, they become convinced of its value. Jesus reinforced the importance of building our lives on obedience to God's Word in the parable of the

wise and foolish builders (Matt. 7:24-27). The stability and survival of the lives we build depend on our willingness to live according to His will and way.

§ *How can we display Scripture verses so our children/grandchildren will see them and thereby be encouraged to trust God's Word?*

2. TESTIFY OF GOD'S GREAT WORKS

A. From Generation to Generation (Psalm 78:1-4)

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: ³ Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

In Psalm 78, the writer presents a review of Israel's history from the time of their bondage and deliverance from Egypt to the reign of King David. Throughout the psalm, God's faithfulness to the nation is carefully noted, despite their repeated disobedience to His laws and rebellion against His ways. The oral traditions of the fathers (v. 3) were the source of this information, and the writer repeatedly underscored the importance of communicating these truths to the generations to come. The testimony about God's faithfulness to His people must be understood and shared with the next generation to encourage their faithfulness to Him.

As we encounter God's goodness and mercy in our spiritual journey, we must freely share our testimony with our children. The rituals and practices of our faith should be underscored by our sincere conversations about our experiences with Him. Since most people come to faith through family influence, it is imperative that we nurture our children in an atmosphere of reverence for God. Our actions must be deliberate and intentional if our children are to duplicate our devotion in their lives. Prayer, faith, church attendance, and participation are some of the ways we can perpetuate the testimony of God from generation to generation.

Family values in many cultures are passed along through traditions that are faithfully followed and practiced every year or at significant times. Family reunions serve to maintain connections, to review the family history, and to introduce newly born members to their relatives. Some family traditions include attending the same college for generations, while others have members that serve in a designated branch of the military or pursue the same career. Recipes, heirlooms, jewelry, land, and furniture are some of the valuable things passed down in many families. In the same way, we should have, maintain, and pass along spiritual traditions that mark our families as connected to God.

A Musical Tradition

The significance of spiritual traditions is that they should be modeled before our children to enable them to adopt them. When I was a child, my mother often sang in church (group, solo, and choir). As we grew older, my siblings and I formed our own children's singing group, and my brother and I went on to play keyboards and drums. In recent years, my daughters have participated in singing and dance groups at church, and my nephews have become accomplished church musicians. Using our musical talents in service to God is an ongoing tradition in our family.—

Patrick Kelly

B. Hope in God (Psalm 78:5-7)

⁵ For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: ⁶ That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: ⁷ That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Asaph is identified by Biblical scholars as the writer of Psalm 78. His intention for this psalm is noted in verse 7. Hoping in God, remembering His works, and obeying His commands were expected of the Israelites in every generation. They should maintain their hope in Him because of

His unending faithfulness. The mighty works He performed on their behalf authenticated His love for His people. Their obedience to Him would show honor for His commands and verify their faith. The same experiences and expectations are presented to those of us who worship and serve God in our day. Our faith in Him stimulates His power and vindicates our obedience.

The great concern of the psalmist and of God was that His people would forget His works and drift away from His commandments (v. 7). As modern readers of Israel's history, we are amazed that a people who witnessed dramatic displays of God's power would quickly forget them and question His ability to provide when facing different crises. They even turned to foreign gods seeking help. The lesson here is that continual reflection, discussion, and testimony of God's goodness toward us will undergird our expectation, hope, and fidelity to Him.

There are numerous contenders for our hope and confidence in today's world. Some people trust in governments for their welfare. Others depend on the state of the economy for their security. Then there are those determined to trust only themselves and to live on their terms alone. The challenges of life will test the quality of whatever we put our faith in. It is inevitable that men, systems, and ideologies will ultimately fail. God alone is undeniably faithful, eternally true, and completely trustworthy. "The soul that loves God has its rest in God and in God alone," said Isaac of Nineveh. "In all the paths that men walk in the world, they do not attain peace until they draw nigh unto God."

\$ *Describe a personal testimony you need to pass on to the next generation. When and how can you do this?*

3. LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

A. Three Generations of Believers (2 Timothy 1:3-5)

³ I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; ⁴ Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with

joy;⁵ When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

The Apostle Paul was one of the most influential figures in the establishment of the New Testament church. His inspired writings inform our doctrines, beliefs, and practices as members of God's church. He also served as a mentor to John Mark, Titus, and Timothy, referring to them as his "sons." Timothy was befriended by Paul during his second missionary journey when the apostle revisited Lystra (Acts 16:1-3). While his mother was a believer of Jewish heritage, Timothy's father was a Gentile and apparently an unbeliever.

Timothy followed his mother in loving God and had a good reputation in the church. Paul saw his potential and decided to take him along on his journeys to confirm his calling and to aid his spiritual development. In his two epistles addressed to Timothy, Paul referenced the young man's legacy of faith. It was three generations deep, beginning with his grandmother, then his mother, and then himself. True to the expectations of the Mosaic covenant, and in keeping with the gospel of Jesus Christ, Timothy had accepted the faith passed down in his family. We can only surmise that if Timothy later established his own family, he would have continued the practice of teaching them his faith.

In Timothy we see the New Testament continuation of the Old Testament expectation that believers establish a legacy of faith in their families. Other examples from the New Testament include Mary, the mother of John Mark (Acts 12:12); Philip's daughters who prophesied (21:8-9); and Paul's admonition in Ephesians 6:1-4. In our modern churches, the existence of Sunday school, children's ministries, student groups, and a host of other youth-related programs are in place to aid families in establishing a legacy of faith.

James Rowe (1879-1945) was an English immigrant to America who composed numerous hymns that are still sung in some churches. One of them is titled “If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again.” It’s a beautiful tribute to the memory of a godly and influential woman who made a spiritual imprint on her child. One stanza reads, “She used to pray that I on Jesus would rely, /And always walk the shining Gospel way: /So trusting still His love, I seek that home above, /Where I shall meet my mother some glad day.”

§ *How did Paul’s ministry to Timothy complement the ministry of Timothy’s mother and grandmother?*

B. The Power of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:13-17)

¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Timothy’s faith was rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures, which had shaped his beliefs. The teaching of his mother and grandmother, along with the apostle’s guidance and his exposure to the New Testament church, had firmly grounded Timothy’s relationship with God. Paul reminded him of the foundations of his faith and urged him to stay true to what he had learned. Against the warning of a coming time that would be marked by apostasy, corruption, and spiritual deception, Timothy was reminded of the power of God’s Word to perfect and mature his faith. What he had learned from childhood would continue to confirm and enlighten his relationship with Jesus.

Second Timothy 3:16 underscores our belief in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. The Holy Scriptures are *inspired*, or “God-breathed,” meaning they are His utterances through men. As such, they are indispensable to our spiritual development and perfection. More than mere words on paper,

they are powerful tools cutting, piercing, discerning, and healing those who encounter them (Heb. 4:12). They carry the power of life and have implication and application for every aspect of our lives as believers. Four specific areas of benefit are noted by Paul and signify the value of God's Word for the generations that will learn, obey, and practice it:

1. *Doctrine.* Theological truths about God, man, sin, salvation, and end times are informed strictly by the Word of God.
2. *Reproof.* Wrong beliefs and practices can be exposed and resisted by our knowledge and proclamation of the Word.
3. *Correction.* Like the architectural drawings that guide the construction of a building, God's Word is the standard by which we measure, confirm our status, and make adjustments in our walk of faith.
4. *Instruction in righteousness.* God's Word informs us how to live His way, thereby displaying righteousness as His faithful followers.

The power of God's Word is revealed through our submission to its guidance and faith in its significance. The Bible is more than a book of stories, poems, and history; it carries the power of the Spirit to transform lives. Reading, studying, and obeying the Scriptures will mature us as believers. Evangelist Gipsy Smith told of a man who said he had received no inspiration from the Bible although he had "gone through it several times." "Let it go through you once," replied Smith. "Then you will tell a different story!" (*sermonsearch.com*).

\$ *Comparing 2 Timothy 3:15 with Romans 10:17, why is it vital that we teach God's Word to children?*

ONE FAMILY'S STORY

Chip and Joanna Gaines were propelled to success through their home renovation program on HGTV. The couple credit their Christian faith as foundational to their journey and business expansion. For Chip, it began with his mother, who rededicated her life to Christ at a Billy Graham crusade in 1975. Serious about their faith, Chip's parents made church attendance and participation a priority.

Chip and Joanna are living their faith before their children and teaching them to know God for themselves. He said, "Our family has made a commitment to put Christ first, a lifestyle our parents modeled for us very well. They showed us how to keep our marriage and family centered [on] God" (Mel Johnson, "God Stories," *godupdates.com*).

Daily Devotions

- M. Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons (Genesis 48:8-16)
- T. Joshua Chooses for His Family (Joshua 24:13-18)
- W. The Consequence of Parental Failure (Judges 2:7-10)
- T. True Family of God Identified (Matthew 12:46-50)
- F. Cornelius' Household Receives God's Truth (Acts 10:1, 30-33, 44-48)
- S. God's Abiding Truth (2 John 1:1-3)