**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 10-3-2021
David as Teacher**

Back in 1970, there was a popular song released by the group Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. It was called, “Teach Your Children.” Perhaps you’ve heard of it. I must admit, it does have a catchy tune. Now, while I do not agree with much of the lyrics found in that song, I do believe that it is very important that we are called to teach our children well.

And while it is definitely true that this is important in our households, in a broader sense our children represent far more than just our biological or adoptive children. Our children can represent everyone whom we influence.

In fact, think of the apostle John for a moment. In his letter that we call 1 John, he repeatedly refers to the Christians there as “my children.” Certainly, John had this broader view of teaching our children well.

Also, we may not think of it or realize it, but every one of us is a teacher. Every one of us is an influencer. While not everyone is called to be a formal teacher in the church, all of us have a sphere of influence. All of us are impacting lives. Every one of us is teaching by the way that we live. Every one of us influences someone. All of us have children in this broad sense, including the children among us.

So how are we to teach our children well? That is the question that we will look at in a little bit.

Today we are concluding our deep dive into the life of King David. David, as we all know, was a man after God’s own heart. He wasn’t perfect and we have explored some of his sins and what we can learn from them. But David loved God and we can learn from many of the godly things that he did.

And today we will explore one more godly thing about David’s life, which was the way that he sought to teach his son, Solomon.

Unfortunately, David did not always succeed in teaching his children well. His family had more than its share of problems. We know from a few weeks ago that David had quite a few children from his many different wives. And as you could guess, this led to a lot of disfunction, as you can imagine.

So, here is a word of advice. If you choose to get married, choose to be a one-man or one-woman person.

And one of the things that he struggled to do was to discipline well. Disciplining others is not an easy thing to do.

But it is important. Sometimes the best kind of teaching is done through correction and through punishment. And David struggled to do this when his children needed it.

For example, one of David’s sons, Amnon, raped his half-sister, Tamar. But while David was furious, he really didn’t punish Amnon. Perhaps his own sin with Bethsheba paralyzed him from taking action to punish Amnon.

And then after two years, Tamor’s brother Absalom, murders Amnon.

So, clearly, things were far from perfect in David’s household.

However, David was very intentional to teach his son Solomon well. He did everything he could to get Solomon rooted and established in his faith. David poured into Solomon. He gave him instructions on building the Temple for the LORD in Jerusalem. He taught him lessons from his own failures and successes. And most important, he made it clear to Solomon that the Lord was to be the One who is alone worthy of his worship and praise.

And we read about some of this foundation in the book of Proverbs. The Book of Proverbs is a collection of godly counsel mostly written by King Solomon.

But, from the very beginning of the book, we see how Solomon truly treasured the instruction of both of his parents. Let’s hear a passage from chapter 1 of Proverbs together.

**1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:**

**2for gaining wisdom and instruction;
    for understanding words of insight;
3for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
    doing what is right and just and fair;
4for giving prudence to those who are simple,[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+1%3A1-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16405a)**]
    knowledge and discretion to the young—
5let the wise listen and add to their learning,
    and let the discerning get guidance—
6for understanding proverbs and parables,
    the sayings and riddles of the wise.[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+1%3A1-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16407b)**]**

**7The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
    but fools[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+1%3A1-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16408c)**] despise wisdom and instruction.**

**8Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction
    and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
9They are a garland to grace your head
    and a chain to adorn your neck.**

In writing the Book of Proverbs, Solomon, is seeking to teach his children well. He is wanting to teach his children in the way that they should go. Solomon had learned well from his Mom and his Dad and he earnestly wants to take what he learned and to pass it on.

In this passage, he writes that **the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge and that we need not despise wisdom and instruction.**

And he goes on to say that **children are to heed their father’s instruction and their mother’s teaching.**

Solomon would not have said this if he didn’t have a father and a mother that were intentional to teach him in the way he should go.

We know from this sermon series that David lived quite a life. He would have much to teach Solomon. Many godly things that he should do as well as warnings to avoid certain pitfalls.

And we can read all about this in the Book of Proverbs.

While David did now always succeed, he learned how important it was to teach his children well and chose to invest his time and his energy into pouring into Solomon. Even though David did not do very great with many of his other children, he learned that it was not too late to be highly intentional with Solomon.

But sadly, despite all of this, we read that in his later life, King Solomon’s heart was later led astray. Present godliness does not guarantee future godliness.

The same man who wrote that we are to **“teach a child in the way they should go and when they are older they will not depart from it,”** himself departs from his faith even though he was taught the way he should go.

Solomon married many idol worshipping women and eventually it led Solomon into idolatry as well.

So unfortunately, Solomon chose to eventually reject his father’s instruction and his mother’s teaching.

So today, as we ponder David as a Teacher, how is that relevant to our lives today?

It is relevant in several ways, but they are all related to this. **We are to do what we can to teach our children well, no matter how well they choose to steward our teaching.**

The Lord, in His love, has made all of us free moral agents. We have a free will. Just because we are raised right does not mean that we will follow Christ. It’s not a guarantee.

But should that stop us from us seeking to be intentional? Certainly not! We are to be salt and light. We are to be difference makers. We are to be intentional to share with those we have an influence on about how we are called to live and how God is gracious and good and Jesus is the Savior of the world.

We can teach others through sharing our stories with them. Sharing how Jesus has given you true life. Share from your victories and successes as well as your mistakes and failures.

And lastly, if we are to teach our children well, we need to be life-long learners. The best teachers never stop learning and growing. We never graduate from the school of the Holy Spirit, so to speak.

David did the right thing pouring into Solomon. Who are the Solomons in your life right now? Children? Grandchildren? Great-grandchildren? Friends? Co-workers? Neighbors? Or some other form of relationship perhaps.

Jesus Himself taught His children well. In a broad sense, He is the parent of us all. But not everyone responds to Him in the way that we are called to.

By the grace of our great Triune God, may we teach our children well also. And we know that as we seek to be intentional, the Lord smiles down upon us. Amen.

Sources:

BibleGateway.com

Teach Our Children Well by Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vnYKRacKQc>