**Who is Teaching Our Children?**

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. 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: 8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation *that* set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. (Ps 78:1-8)

Give Ear O My People – This is very important!

**Background**

* Written by Asaph, a Levite and music leader in the service of King David
  + 4 And he appointed *certain* of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, Jeiel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehiel, and Mattithiah, and Eliab, and Benaiah, and Obededom: and Jeiel with psalteries and with harps; but Asaph made a sound with cymbals; (1 Chronicles 16:4-5)
* That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 13:35)

**Be Diligent**

* Make Them Known To Their Children, Arise and Declare Them to Their Children
  + It is the parents who have the primary responsibility for teaching children the truth about God
    - 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. 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. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)
  + Question:
    - What are your kids excited about?
    - What are you excited about?
  + Illustration
    - Barbies with Rachel
    - Thou shalt not climb adult trees
* Parenting will fail if all we do is punish our children. Our focus must be on teaching and training.
  + Punishment – For God’s glory or the satisfaction of His justice. Parental example: we punish simply to satisfy our anger.
  + Chastisement – For the good of the one being chastised. There is a plan. There is a training objective!

**Be Balanced**

* And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)
* 1 ¶ And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:1-3)
* John Piper – “People who do not orient their lives on the testimony of God in Scripture cannot know what is good for them or for their children.”
* Teach About God’s Grace and His Goodness
  + 4 We will not hide *them* from their children, shewing to the generation to come 1) the praises of the LORD, and 2) his strength, and 3) his wonderful works that he hath done. (Ps 78:4)
  + 37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. 38 But he, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and destroyed *them* not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. 39 For he remembered that they *were but* flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. (Ps 78:37-39)
* Teach About God’s Law and His Justice
  + The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. (Ps 19:7)
  + Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19)

**Be Clear**

1. Set Their Hope in God
2. Nor Forget the Works of God
   * Evolution
   * Luck
   * Mother Nature
3. Keep His Commandments
   * Commandments are for our good
4. Might Not Be as Their Fathers
   * Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; (1 Peter 1:18)