

Courage
Courage To Parent
From “Courageous” series by Wayne Murray

Today, I Am Going To Do My Very Best To Talk About Courageous Parenting.

To Get Us Started, I Would Like To Start Out With A Clip From The Movie Courageous.

Video: Opening Scene of Courageous

I Know That This Segment Of The Film Is Very Intense.

However, I Feel That It Best Describes What I Want To Talk About Today As We Strive To Be Courageous Parents.

Here We Have A Father Who Appears To Be Protecting His Truck Until The Door Opened And Then The Audience Caught A Glimpse Of The True Reason Why This Father Was Courageous For He Was Protecting His Child.

After Watching This Segment You Might Say, “Pastor, I Would Do The Same Thing”

How Many Parents “Would Defend Your Kids Against Anybody Who Would Try And Hurt Them?”

However, I Realized That There Are Other Enemies That Want To Destroy My Kids That I Have Not Stood Up Against.

The Bible Says That We Wrestle Not Against Flesh And Blood

There Are Things We Are Wrestling With That Are Not Seen

Some Of These Enemies Are

- ❖ Today’s Cultural Enticements;
- ❖ Dominate Parenting Philosophies That Exclude The Biblical Principles
- ❖ The Media Influence From Television, Radio And Internet.

We Have Even Closer Enemies That Stop Us From Being A Good Parent And

These Are

- ❖ My Hobbies,
- ❖ My Job,
- ❖ My Wants And Desires
- ❖ My Dreams.

Thinking About These Things, I Looked Back Over My 50 Years Of Living And Realized That There Have Been Many Time Where I Was Protecting The **Truck** Instead Of My **Children**.

I’m Not Looking For You To Raise Your Hand Or Embarrass Anyone

How Many Of You Today Can Say That You Have Protected The Truck Instead Of Your Kids?

I Want You To Think With Me About The Times We Have Wanted Other Things **More** Than To Take Care Of Our Kids.

Let Me Say That I'm Not Saying We Are Bad Parents, What I Am Saying Is That There Are Times **We All Lose Focus On What Is Important.**

I Want You To Understand That Being A Parent Is The Greatest Ministry You Can Have

A Lot Of People Hear About Missionaries Going To Far Away Countries & Giving Up All To Reach A People Group

The **Greatest Mission** Field Is To Train Up The Generation That Lives Inside Your House

Our

- ❖ Jobs Will Pass And We Will Be Replaced,
- ❖ Our Trophies And Rewards Will Rust,
- ❖ Our Diplomas And Educational Papers Will Turn Yellow And Fade,
- ❖ Our Toys (Vehicles, Boats, And Golf Clubs) Will All Go Out Of Style,

But The Souls Of Our Kids Will Live On.

You See, The Only Thing We Can Take To Heaven From This Earth Is Our Kids.

I Want To Encourage You To Be Courageous Parents

Today, If We Chose To Be A Courageous Parent, Then A Lot Of The Stuff We Think Is Important Has To Go To The Back Ground And Our **Number One Priority** Has To Become Parenting Our Children.

God Has A Lot To Say About Parenting Kids.

Deuteronomy 6.1 These Are The Commands, Decrees And Laws The Lord Your God Directed Me To Teach You To Observe In The Land That You Are Crossing The Jordan To Possess,

² So That You, Your Children And Their Children After Them May Fear The Lord Your God As Long As You Live By Keeping All His Decrees And Commands That I Give You, And So That You May Enjoy Long Life.

³ Hear, O Israel, And Be Careful To Obey So That It May Go Well With You And That You May Increase Greatly In A Land Flowing With Milk And Honey, Just As The Lord, The God Of Your Fathers, Promised You.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord Our God, The Lord Is One.

⁵ Love The Lord Your God With All Your Heart And With All Your Soul And With All Your Strength.

⁶ These Commandments That I Give You Today Are To Be Upon Your Hearts.

⁷ Impress Them On Your Children. Talk About Them When You Sit At Home And When You Walk Along The Road, When You Lie Down And When You Get Up.

⁸ Tie Them As Symbols On Your Hands And Bind Them On Your Foreheads.

⁹ Write Them On The Doorframes Of Your Houses And On Your Gates.

¹⁰ When The Lord Your God Brings You Into The Land He Swore To Your Fathers, To Abraham, Isaac And Jacob, To Give You—A Land With Large, Flourishing Cities You Did Not Build,

¹¹ Houses Filled With All Kinds Of Good Things You Did Not Provide, Wells You Did Not Dig, And Vineyards And Olive Groves You Did Not Plant—Then When You Eat And Are Satisfied,

¹² Be Careful That You Do Not Forget The Lord, Who Brought You Out Of Egypt, Out Of The Land Of Slavery.

¹³ Fear The Lord Your God, Serve Him Only And Take Your Oaths In His Name.

¹⁴ Do Not Follow Other Gods, The Gods Of The Peoples Around You;

¹⁵ For The Lord Your God , Who Is Among You, Is A Jealous God And His Anger Will Burn Against You, And He Will Destroy You From The Face Of The Land.

¹⁶ Do Not Test The Lord Your God As You Did At Massah.

¹⁷ Be Sure To Keep The Commands Of The Lord Your God And The Stipulations And Decrees He Has Given You.

¹⁸ 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 That The Lord Promised On Oath To Your Forefathers,

¹⁹ Thrusting Out All Your Enemies Before You, As The Lord Said.

²⁰ In The Future, When Your Son Asks You, "What Is The Meaning Of The Stipulations, Decrees And Laws The Lord Our God Has Commanded You?"

²¹ Tell Him: "We Were Slaves Of Pharaoh In Egypt, But The Lord Brought Us Out Of Egypt With A Mighty Hand.

²² Before Our Eyes The Lord Sent Miraculous Signs And Wonders—Great And Terrible—Upon Egypt And Pharaoh And His Whole Household.

²³ But He Brought Us Out From There To Bring Us In And Give Us The Land That He Promised On Oath To Our Forefathers.

²⁴ The Lord Commanded Us To Obey All These Decrees And To Fear The Lord Our God, So That We Might Always Prosper And Be Kept Alive, As Is The Case Today.

²⁵ And If We Are Careful To Obey All This Law Before The Lord Our God, As He Has Commanded Us, That Will Be Our Righteousness."

God Has Given The Children Of Israel The Promise Land

But, God Has Given Them **Responsibilities**

God Has Given Us Promises, But We Still Have To Do Our Part

God Had Said I'm Giving You All These Things But There Is **One Thing** You Cannot Forget – **The Lord Your God**

From These Scriptures, God Is Teaching Us How To Be Courageous Parents.
Israel Is Getting Ready To Cross Over To The Promise Land.

Before Going, God Tells Moses To Instruct The People How To Survive In This New Land.

Though This Land Is A Promise From God, There Was Going To Be Work To Be Done And The Work Was The Responsibility Of The Parents.

Think About The Correlation Of Us Today

In The Promise Land, There Was Different Culture That Was **Contrary** To The Bible.

Instead Of Worshipping The True God, There Was A Secular Worldview Being Taught By The Schools.

The Music And Media Was Contrary To The One True And Holy God.

God Said Here Is The Responsibility

Not The

- ❖ Children's Pastor
- ❖ Youth Pastor
- ❖ Kid's Discipleship Leader
- ❖ Church

God Said It Was Up To The **Parents To Instruct** The Children

Further, For The Israelites To Be Successful, It Would Come Down To The Home.

Moses Told The People To Remember

- Where They Came From
- All The Wonders That God Did For Them.

He Gave Us Key Words:

- Impress
- Talk
- Tie
- Bind
- Tell Him!

It's Amazing To See How Similar This Passage Is For Us Today.

If Our County Is Going To Be Successful, It Has To Start In The Home.

Government, Organizations, Schools, And The Church Can Only Be **Partners** In Raising The Kids

They Were Never Intended To Be The **Primary** Raising Of Children.

It's The Parent's Primary Duty And One Of The Most Important Ministries Here On Earth!

Being A Missionary In Your Own Living Room Is The Key To Being A Courageous Parent!

From These Scriptures, There Are **Three** Important Principles To Understand When It Comes To Being A Courageous Parent.

1. **Communication**

Throughout These Scriptures, Moses Instructs The People To Communicate With Their Kids:

Deuteronomy 6.6 These Commandments That I Give You Today Are To Be Upon Your Hearts.

Deuteronomy 6.7 **Impress** Them On Your Children. **Talk** About Them When You Sit At Home And When You Walk Along The Road, When You Lie Down And When You Get Up.

Deuteronomy 6.8 Tie Them As **Symbols** On Your Hands And Bind Them On Your Foreheads.

Deuteronomy 6.9 **Write** Them On The Doorframes Of Your Houses And On Your Gates.

Deuteronomy 6.21 **Tell Him**: "We Were Slaves Of Pharaoh In Egypt, But The Lord Brought Us Out Of Egypt With A Mighty Hand.

From These Verses We See The Importance Of Communication.

If You Don't Tell Your Children About God, There Will Be Someone In The World That Will Tell Them About Something You Don't Want

John Caldwell (Wrote Raising G Rated Kids In An R Rated World) Says, "Love And Affection Should Be The Basis Of Any Parent-Child Relationship. However, I Believe With All My Heart That **Good Communication Is The Primary Key To Every Interpersonal Relationship.** (P. 21)

Communication Is Important

- ❖ Husband & Wives – You Need To Communicate
 - Sometimes You Mis-Communicate
- ❖ On Your Job
- ❖ If You Are A Teacher
- ❖ If You Are A Parent

You Need To Be **Intentional** With Your Communication

You Should Communicated The Statutes Of God's Word

The Word Communicate Comes From The Root Word

- Community
- Communion.

Communication – At Least Good Communication – Brings Us Together And Strengthens Our Relationships.

One Thing That I Want To Add With Communication Is There Are Two Sides, **Talking And Listening!**

If We Are Going To Be Courageous Parents, We Need To Talk & Listen To Our Children

2. A Courageous Parent **Sets Priorities** **Pp Slide**

Deuteronomy 6.3 Hear, O Israel, And Be Careful To Obey So That It May Go Well With You And That You May Increase Greatly In A Land Flowing With Milk And Honey, Just As The Lord, The God Of Your Fathers, Promised You.

Deuteronomy 6.4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord Our God, The Lord Is One.

Deuteronomy 6.5 Love The Lord **Your** God With All **Your** Heart And With All **Your** Soul And With All **Your** Strength.

Deuteronomy 6.6 These Commandments That I Give You Today Are To Be Upon **Your** Hearts.

Deuteronomy 6.7 impress Them On **Your** Children. Talk About Them When **You** Sit At Home And When **You** Walk Along The Road, When **You** Lie Down And When You Get Up.

Deuteronomy 6.8 tie Them As Symbols On **Your** Hands And Bind Them On **Your** Foreheads.

Deuteronomy 6.9 Write Them On The Doorframes Of **Your** Houses And On **Your** Gates.

From These Scriptures, God Through The Writing Of Moses Tells The Moms And Dad First To Obey And Love The Lord.

After Telling Them, Then They Are Then To **Impress** Them On Their Kids.

You See, You Must Wholeheartedly Embrace The Outcomes You Are Pushing Your Child To Achieve.

If You Want Your Child

- To Love The Lord, Then You Must Make That A Priority In Your Life!
- To Go To Church, Then You Must Make Church A Priority In Your Life!
- To Read The Bible, Then You Must Make Bible Reading A Priority!
- To Have A Good Attitude, Then You Must Have A Good Attitude
- To Be A World Changer, Then You Must Be A World Changer

Today, We Need To Understand That Our Priority Needs To Be Raising Our Kids To Be Spiritual Champions.

Most Parents Examine Their Parenting Success By Concluding That Things Are Good If Their Kids Are Provided:

- Food, Clothing, And Shelter
- Physically Healthy
- Performing Beyond Their Grade Level
- In A Secure And Comfortable Home
- Monitored And Cared For By Parents
- Involved With Church Services And Programs
- Connected To Decent Friends
- Not Involved In Gangs
- Not Taking Drugs
- Not Alcoholics
- No Out Of Control Sexually
- Not Involved In A Cult Or In Satanic Activity
- Not A Victim Of Physical Or Emotional Abuse
- Without A Criminal Record Or Related Problems

These Measures Are Meaningful As Far As They Go, But We Are Measuring Their Well-Being On The Wrong Standard.

Our Priority Should Be To Measure Our Kids On The Standard Of God's Word.

God Measures His Standard On The Heart.

How Do We Measure Our Standard? By Making Sure Our Kids Understand That The Scripture Is Our Standard

All Those Other Things Are Important
But We Need To Make Sure We Are Measuring According To God's Standard

Deuteronomy 10:12 And Now, O Israel, What Does The Lord Your God Ask Of You But To Fear The Lord Your God, To Walk In All His Ways, To Love Him, To Serve The Lord Your God With All Your Heart And With All Your Soul,

Deuteronomy 10:13 And To Observe The Lord's Commands And Decrees That I Am Giving You Today For Your Own Good?

Luke 10:27 He Answered: "Love The Lord Your God With All Your Heart And With All Your Soul And With All Your Strength And With All Your Mind"; And, 'Love Your Neighbor As Yourself.'

Now Understand That We Are Not To Ignore The Significance Of Developing Our Children's

- Intellectual Dimension
- Emotional Dimension
- Physical Dimension

But It Suggests That We Have To See The Bigger Picture Of God's Priorities And Raise Our Children In The Light Of His Standards, For His Standards Measures Character And Faith.

Let Me Give You Some Outcomes Of A Recent Survey Study Done By George Barna From Kids 13 & Under:

- Most Of Our Children Are Biblically Illiterate.
 - Their Ignorance Of Bible Teachings Corresponds To The Fact That Only 1/3 (36%) Of Our Adolescents **Fully Believe** That The Bible Is **Accurate In All** Of The Principles It Teaches.
- Few Of Our Children Are Motivated To Share Their Faith In Christ With Others.
 - Less Than 1 Out Of Every 5 (19%) Contend That They Have The Responsibility To Evangelize Their Peers.
- Not Even Half Of Our Young People (46%) State That Their Religious Faith Is Very Important In Their Lives.
- Few Of Our Children Take Satan Seriously.
 - Only ¼ Of Them Believe That The Devil Is Real.
- Salvation Baffles Most Of Our Young Ones.
 - 80% Believe The Idea That Good People **Can Earn** Their Way Into Heaven.
 - And 70% Believe That **Everyone Experiences The Same Post Death Outcome**, Regardless Of Their Beliefs.
 - In Fact, Only 80% Of Adolescents Strongly Agree That **People Cannot Know For Sure** What Will Happen To Them When They Die.
- Most Of Our Kids Are **Willing To Entertain The Idea** That Jesus Christ **Sinned** While He Lived On Earth.
 - Only 44% Outright Dismiss The Idea.
- The Majority Live For Things Other Than Loving God With All Their Heart, Minds, Strength, And Souls.
 - Specifically, Only 4 Out Of Every 10 Live With That Purpose In Mind.
- Only 1/3 Of America's Adolescents Contend That Jesus Christ Returned To Physical Life After His Crucifixion And Death On The Cross.
- By Their Own Admission, Our Children Are Confused Theologically.
 - Based On Their Reaction To Statements Like
 - "It Doesn't Matter What Religious Faith I Follow Because They All Teach Similar Lessons,"

It's Clear That They Do Not Know What To Think About Competing Worldviews And Belief Systems.

We Here At _____ Church Take These Things Seriously.

We Do Teach

- Worldview
- Bible
- Sound Doctrine

But You Must Understand That We Average **130 Hours** In A Given Year To Influence Your Child [If They Don't Miss 1 Service]

But You The Parent, On Average, Have 3,000 Hours Per Year To Influence Your Child.

We Are Going To Do Our Very Best To Instill Godly Principles In Your Children

But God **Never** Called

- ❖ Kid's Pastor
- ❖ Pre-School Director
- ❖ Youth Pastor

To Be The **Primary** Spiritual Caregivers Of Your Kids

Let Me Show You A Couple More From George Barna's Study:

- Our National Surveys Of Thirteen Year Olds Reveal That Most Of Them Think They Already Know Everything Of Significance In The Bible
 - Hence, They Are No Longer Open To Learning Or Actively Studying The Scriptures.
 - Also, Most Of Them Have No Intention Of Continuing To Attend Church When They Are In Their Twenties And Living On Their Own.
- In Addition, Consider That Fewer Than 1 Out Of Every 5 Parents Of Young Children Believe They Are Doing A Good Job Of Training Their Children Morally Or Spiritually.
- In Fact, When We Asked A National Sample Of Adults With Children Under Eighteen To Rate Their Parenting Performance On Fifteen Different Indicators, We Discovered That **Parents Ranked Their Efforts To Morality And Spiritually At The Bottom Of The List.**

As One Can See, Our Priorities Have Been Placed In The Wrong Places!

If You Are A Parent, I Would Offer You Three Resources.

First, Open Your Bible And As A Family, Read It!

Second, I Would Encourage You To Read The Book

- Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions By George Barna
- Revolutionary Parenting By George Barna.

If We Are Going To Be Courageous Parents, We Have To

- ❖ Set Priorities
- ❖ Good Communication

3. A Courageous Parent Establishes **Relationships** With Their Kids.

You Mean Pastor, I Have To Spend Time With My Kids

Deuteronomy 6.4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord Our God, The Lord Is One.

Deuteronomy 6.5 Love The Lord Your God With All Your Heart And With All Your Soul And With All Your Strength.

Deuteronomy 6.6 These Commandments That I Give You Today Are To Be Upon Your Hearts.

Deuteronomy 6.7 Impress Them On Your Children. Talk About Them When You Sit At Home And When You Walk Along The Road, When You Lie Down And When You Get Up.

Deuteronomy 6.8 Tie Them As Symbols On Your Hands And Bind Them On Your Foreheads.

Deuteronomy 6.9 Write Them On The Doorframes Of Your Houses And On Your Gates.

Do You

- ❖ Have A Relationship With Your Kids Or Does X-Box?
- ❖ Talk With Your Kids Or Does Dora The Explorer?

Your Impact On Your Children's Lives Is Proportional To The Depth Of The Relationship You Have Fostered With Your Children.

If You Don't Have A Relationship With Your Kids, You Won't Be Able To Influence Them

Your Ability To Influence Your Children Is Dependent Upon Them **Respecting** You And **Trusting** You.

Expecting Them To Do What You Say Simply Because You Are Their Parent Doesn't Work For Long.

Unless You Gained Their Attention And Favor By Becoming A Genuine Confidant, They Eventually Will Opt For Other Alternatives.

- ❖ Dads – If You Don't Have A Relationship With Your Girls They Will Have A Relationship With Boys
- ❖ Moms If You Don't Have A Relationship With Your Sons, They Will Find Girls
- ❖ If You Don't Spend Time With Your Kids, A Human Trafficker Will
- ❖ Drugs
- ❖ Gangs
- ❖ Alcohol
- ❖ Wrong Friends

You Build Trust By Showing Them

- Unconditional Love
- Complete Integrity
- Total Commitment To The Ways Of God And Their Best Interest.

This Implies Devoting Substantial Amounts Of Time To Building Your Relationship With Each Child.

Time Is What Is Needed To Be A Courageous Parent

One Must Be Willing To Take The Time Necessary To Grow Kids Who Love The Lord With All Their

- Hearts
- Souls
- Mind
- Strength

Josh McDowell – **Rules Without Relationship Produce Rebellion.** (Book Right From Wrong!)

Conclusion

Today I Have Given You Three Things To Become A Courageous Parent.

To Help You Remember, You Can Take The Three Ideas And Spell Out **CPR**.

- C= Communication
- P= Priorities
- R= Relationship

We All Are Aware That If You Have A Heart Attack, CPR Can Bring One Back To Life.

The Culture, The Media, And The Devil Has Attacked The Heart Of Parenting.

Today Is The Day To Use CPR To Bring The Responsibility Of Parenting Back As Our Primary Responsibility.

Your Primary Responsibility Is Not

- ❖ Your Job
- ❖ Your Hobby
- ❖ Your Prestige

Your Primary Responsibility Is To Raise Your Kids In The Ways Of The Lord

The Greatest Difference You Can Make Is For Your Child To Grow Up And Change The World For God

I Am _____ Years Old

I Have

- Dreams
- Desires
- Goals
- Hobbies

That I Thought Were Important

But Me Raising My Kids To Fear The Lord Is The Most Important Thing I Can Do

It Is Time We Use **CPR** On Our Kids

Parenting Is Not For The Faint Of Heart.

There Will Be Long Days And Nights.

The Time To Be A Good Parent Will Be Labor Intensive.

However, If We Are Obedient To God And His Word, God Promises Us That It Would Go Well With Us!

Today, You Have A Choice, You Can Save Your Truck Or You Can Save Your Child.

The Decision Is Yours!

Play Last Courageous Movie Clip – Final Scene – Where Are You Men Of Courage

The Question Is Who Will Stand Up And Be Responsible For Your Family?

If You Are Here And Feel Like You Have Failed, You Need To Throw That Off & Stand Up & Declare Today Is The Day That I Will Be The Parent I Should Be

I've Given You 3 Tools This Morning – **CPR**

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Priorities
- ❖ Relationship

Today, You Are Ready To Step Out And Declare You Will Be A Better Parent, I Want You To Come To This Altar