

WHY YOU AREN'T SLEEPING

The Kids • April 24/25, 2010

ICEBREAKER:

Take some time to get to know each other with some open sharing:

- Describe what it was like to grow up in your family as a kid.

INTRODUCTION:

What are the biggest challenges parents face today in raising their kids?

React to this statement: *Parenting is definitely not a spectator sport.*

Respond to this: *I just want my kids to be happy.*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

You must love the Lord your God and obey all His requirements, laws, regulations, and commands. Listen! I am not talking now to your children, who have never experienced the discipline of the Lord your God or seen His greatness and awesome power. You have seen all the Lord's mighty deeds with your own eyes! Commit yourselves completely to these words.... Tie them to your hands as a reminder, and wear them on your forehead. Teach them to your children. Deuteronomy 11:1-2, 7, 18-19a (NLT)

1. Based on the verses above, how are we to lead our kids? What are our first or primary responsibilities? Why is it necessary that we take the first step?

2. Deut. 6:5 says, *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.* Why is this command so necessary to live out in front of your kids?

Regardless of whether you have children or not, describe what life looks like when someone is loving God fully.

3. *Proverbs 22:6 (NLT) Teach (train) your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.* Based on this verse, what is our role as parents? What if a child doesn't respond to you? How do you respond to them? To God?

4. Read *Deuteronomy 11:18-21.* What is the point of these verses?

Give some personal examples of teachable moments with your kids.

React to this: *Once we realize we can't hide our flaws from our kids, we can be constantly embarrassed and frustrated by the situation, or we can turn these less-than-perfect times into teachable moments.*

Would your children be surprised to know God is actually a part of your everyday life? Would a co-worker be surprised to learn that God is a part of your life?

How much time do you talk about spiritual matters with your spouse and kids? Do you need to change some of your priorities?

5. Take a look at what Jesus said in Luke 6:43-45. Define the "heart". What is it? Why is it more important to focus on our hearts than on our actions?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

1. How can you better lead your children or those around you?

2. What specifically is in your heart that needs to be removed and replaced with God's truth?

3. To parent boldly, you must live boldly with God. What needs to change so you can love God with all your being?

THINK ABOUT IT (Something to chew on or memorize)

Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do. Proverbs 4:23-27 [NLT]