

TheWord@Home

Focal Passage: Genesis 3:1-7

Discipleship starts at home! Deuteronomy 6:7 is a reminder for us to talk with our children about the ways of the Lord as we go through our daily activities together.

Below are some talking points that tie in with Pastor Robby's sermon series, to serve as a resource for parents to have biblically-based conversations with family members at home.

- **Pick and choose** from any of these "Talk About It" discussion starters when you're on the go or at home together.
- Don't try to talk about them all at once. Choose one or two at a time.
- Additional discussion tips are given (*in italicized parentheses like this*).

Enjoy applying *TheWord@Home* as your family grows in the knowledge of the Lord!

Think About It:

You and I are faced with decisions each day to either live for God, or for what seems right in our own eyes. This week's Bible study is about a young couple (Adam and Eve) who were living in the beautiful Garden of Eden. It was paradise—for a while—until sin entered the picture.

This week we see three lessons "from the Garden" that can easily be applied to children and family life. These examples have to do with **authority, obedience, and consequences**—three terms that kids are very familiar with in their daily activities!

Talk About It— .

1. **Authority.** Children are accustomed to authority figures—parents, teachers, babysitters, and coaches—who oversee their activities. But kids may not realize that even adults have a higher authority to answer to each day. God is our authority! Talk with your children about some of these situations regarding who's really in charge, and how to respond to authority:
 - Other than your parents, who else has the right to be in charge of you?
 - Do you ever think of God as being in charge of everyone and everything happening in the world today? How does this make you feel?
 - If you don't like the instructions God gives you from the Bible, what should you do about your attitude and behavior? (*Pray, asking God to give you a better attitude about respect and obedience.*)

- How do you feel when you realize you're doing something that would not make God happy? What should you do about it? (*Ask God to help you stop doing things that are displeasing to Him.*)
2. **Obedience.** We've all played this game as children. It has to do with listening to instruction and choosing to obey or disobey the commands. Rules are not always fun to live by, but there is a purpose in having these boundaries set in place.
- Can you think of any rules at home, school, or in society that help keep people safe or healthy?
 - What happens when we choose to do what we want to do rather than obey instructions given by those in charge? (*There are consequences. We get in trouble with those in authority.*)
 - Can you think of some rules that God has given us to love Him and live peacefully with other people? (*i.e. Don't lie; Don't murder; Be kind to others; Love the Lord with all your heart; etc..*)
 - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rules, what happened? (*They were ashamed of their wrong actions and tried to hide from the Lord. Also, God gave them consequences—hard work/difficulty in giving birth.*)
 - If you were in the place of Adam or Eve, would it have been easy or difficult to follow God's instructions He gave about the certain tree to avoid? Why or why not?
3. **Consequences.** Even young preschoolers can begin learning to make wise choices. The key for parents is to be firm and consistent in giving children acceptable options. When kids intentionally go against their parents' or other authority's guidelines, then consequences are sure to follow.

Decision-making skills are part of life and many of them will be learned during childhood. Adam and Eve had the choice to obey God's instructions about avoiding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or disobey Him by eating of it. We, too, have similar decisions to make each day—to submit to God's authority or suffer the consequences if we choose our own way.

Pray with your children this week about making the wise choice to obey God in everything they do!