

Introduction – “Five Smooth Stones”

God has been in the business of helping children defeat the “evil giants” in their world for a long time.

1. Teach Them to Suffer Well

A Theology of Suffering

- Life is hard, but God is good!
- Life is unjust, but God is sovereign.
- Old Testament Roots—Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
- New Testament Command—1 Peter 2:21-23

Application: Help your child grow through suffering.

Life Message: Suffering is Normal!

2. Teach Them to Work “Unto the Lord”

A Theology of Work

- Work is a “calling,” not a job.
- All work is sacred.
- Our work is to flow from God’s unique design and purpose for our lives.
- Work is for one audience; the “audience of one.”
- Old Testament Roots—Genesis 2:15
- New Testament Command—Colossians 3:23

Application: Help your child discover “God’s calling” for their life so they can impact their world and beyond.

Life Message: Do What You Are!

3. Teach Them to Manage Their Lives Wisely

A Theology of Stewardship

- God owns everything.
- God has entrusted to us “things” to manage for Him. (time, talent, treasure)
- God expects a positive return on His investment.
- God will hold you accountable.
- God wants you to share in His joy.
- Old Testament Roots—Genesis 1:26-28
- New Testament Command—Matthew 25:14-30

Application: Help your child to become faithful in the “little things”—Luke 16:10

Life Message: You Are Not in Control!

4. Teach Them to Discern Good from Evil

A Theology of Holiness

- God is high, holy, “totally other.”
- God is absolute truth.
- God’s Word defines absolute truth.
- God’s Law (morals) are for our protection.
- God’s ultimate aim is to make us holy.
- Old Testament Roots—Exodus 3:5-6
- New Testament Command—1Peter 1:15-16

Application: Help your child think Biblically and critically to develop personal convictions and character.

Life Message: Your Life is Not About You!

5. Teach Them to Live Grace-Filled Lives

A Theology of Grace

- Grace is the unmerited and unconditional love of God toward us.
- Grace is free to us, but costly to God.
- The cross is God's greatest act of grace.
- Salvation is a free gift from God.
- Grace must be received—i.e. *faith*.
- Grace produces *gratitude* toward God, and love toward others.
- Old Testament Roots—Genesis 3:21
- New Testament Command—Ephesians 2:8-10; 1Peter 1:13

Application: Help your child realize that failure is never final with God.

Life Message: You Are Not That Important.

Discussion Questions

1. Which part of this message was most helpful? Most challenging? Most thought-provoking?
2. Why is it so important to teach our children to think Biblically? To develop a Christian world-view?
3. What specific step would allow you to put one of these “smooth stones” in the sling of your child's life?