

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) is 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?