

TALK IT OVER

Great Investment

BOTTOM LINE

We have the privilege of shaping lives.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is one big thing you unconsciously learned at home? (fun or serious)

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Parenting: Getting It Right](#) by Andy and Sandra Stanley (21 min.)

VERSES AND QUOTES

Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Luke 1:28 NIV

Hear, 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 ancestors, promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:3-9 NIV

“God doesn’t wait for a better version of you to show up. He shows up to be with you. He gives you the same promise He gave Mary. He is with you right in the middle of it.” – Dwight Mason

“If you truly want to follow Jesus and your children to follow Jesus, you will no doubt be in church more than once a month.” – Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

How do you respond to the thought that you are like Mary – favored, with a God who is with you amid your responsibilities in shaping lives? While parents have a major responsibility here, how does this apply to those who do not have children? Those whose children are adults? Deuteronomy 6:3-9 records God’s directives for shaping lives: **Build a community worth having.** From your unique position in life, what is your responsibility for that? If you are IN the community, you ARE a shaper. How can you manage that responsibility well? **Raise a standard worth pursuing.** Mishandling this is costly. If we don’t set an example, a high standard, it will be less likely they will follow with a whole heart. But the other end is a legalistic and judgmental standard that prompts rebellion. How can we get it right? What are helpful tools, attitudes, and approaches? **Pass on a faith worth living and sharing.** God has given us principles for all areas of life we are to talk about with our children. Which are most difficult for you? What helps? How do your children see faith working in you? What do you do when you fail?

ACTION STEP

I am a life-shaper. To do that effectively I must authentically be and do what I share. I will work with God in these areas to love and shape well: _____