



Leaving Your Mark

June 20, 2021

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Training, not trying, is the key to developing successful kids.

Icebreaker: What is a skill you could transmit to others through training? Throwing a football? Baking? Playing a musical instrument? Quilting? Who trained YOU to perform that skill?

Key Verse: *Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it.* Proverbs 22:6 ASV

Dedicate your children to God and train them in the way that they should go, and the values they've learned from you will be with them for life. Proverbs 22:6 TPT

Whether you like it or not, you are going to leave a mark on someone. What kind of mark do you want to leave? Think of a mark with a permeating influence like a fragrance. Have you ever gone to a restaurant and left smelling exactly like that restaurant? Leaving a mark is similar, whether for good or bad. We can leave a mark that can change the world. EVERY church must have a plan for shaping the faith of the next generation. Spiritual leadership is taking responsibility for the health and development of your relationships. Psalm 112 says that the children of the godly who obey His commands can be successful everywhere. What does that success mean? Culture says that success is raising popular, well-liked kids who do well in sports, school, and life. But we are called to unleash an anchor of hope in our kids' lives from which they will never recover, teaching them to understand what it means to live a Christ-centered life and how to have a biblical worldview with the Scriptures guiding them to be salt and light in the world. How do we do that? **Focus on training, not lecturing.** Lecturing is just talk. Training is talking AND demonstrating until we know that the person we're training understands completely. **There are four key areas in training to leave an eternal mark:** **1) Train in knowing Jesus**—personally, not just about Him. Expose them to the presence and power of God in His Church so they long to be in His presence with other people. Train them to know God through the power of prayer. Train them to know Jesus through personal God time. **2) Train in managing time and money.** You can say a million things, but the number-one way to teach your kids what's important is where you spend your time and money. If your children do not have a first-generation love for Jesus, maybe you need to turn up the heat and seek Him personally. More is caught than taught. We must expose them to the joy of knowing God personally. **2) Train in the significance of serving,** the thrill of being used by God, using their gifts outside themselves. They must know they don't GO to church; they ARE the Church. **3) Train by faith.** You may not see the results you want now. They may not thank you now. You may sometimes feel that you might as well give up. But don't grow weary in doing good. God promises that we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. Live by faith and by trusting God's grace. You will leave a life-changing mark.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

Every person's life, for good or evil, has been shaped by people who left a life-changing mark. Who do you credit in your life?

Spiritual leadership is taking responsibility for the health and development of your relationships. Practically, what does that look like to you?

One of the problems of pushing back on the world's standard for success is that doing well in sports, school, and overall life is not a bad thing. How can we tell when our priorities are correct and wisely balanced, and we are keeping the main thing the main thing?

How would you describe in your own words what it means to live an appropriate Christ-centered life? Some people believe they do, yet their relationship is all about and for them. What are the key components?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What's the difference between training and just lecturing or telling? Who has been a great trainer in some area in your life? What made them successful?

There is nothing more important than training the people we lead to know God's presence and power. What has been most effective for you from the people who have trained you in this area?

Which area of training mentioned in the message do you find most challenging? Why? What might help?

Your own personal example is most powerful in training others. Most of the time our choices are not between right and wrong but about what is wisest and best. Sometimes we fail because we think we are off the clock. Consistency is vital. Where is God speaking to you about consistency in your life?

What is a challenge to your faith in training and how do you fight to win?

NEXT STEPS

1. Identify the relationships in your life where you should be providing solid spiritual leadership.
2. Evaluate how you are doing.
3. Develop and commit to set structure in your life to step up your leadership.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Training, not trying, is the key to developing successful kids.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Psalm 112:1-4, 6b

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:4

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 6:7

Thursday: Ephesians 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 4:12

Friday: 3 John 1:4

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)