

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 _____ through suffering.
- Life message: Suffering is _____.

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 _____ “God’s calling” for their life so they can impact their world and beyond.
- Life message: You were _____ to work!

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 _____ in the “little things.”
Luke 16:10
- Life message: Your life is a _____ stewardship!

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 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Application: Help your child think _____ and critically to develop personal _____ and character.
- Life message: Teach them to make _____ choices!

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; 1 Peter 1:13

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

- Life message: You were created to _____ grace and to give grace.

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?