

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_ is the only way to get God’s best.

### 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?