

## **“How to Empty the Nest”**

Proverbs 22:6

During the month of May I’m going to focus on improving our family life. Family is really important. I want my family and your family to be the best it can be. Today I want to explain how to do a great job of emptying the nest (even if you don’t have a nest to empty).

### **A) Why do we teach children?**

#### **Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)**

[6] Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

- We teach children because they grow up.
- We teach children because they go out on their own.
- We teach children because it’s a dangerous world.

### **B) The curriculum.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

[4] “Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

[5] And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

- Listening is step one!
- There is only one God, the LORD.
- Loving God with our whole self is the desired outcome of teaching:
  - All the heart.
  - All the soul.
  - All the strength.

### C) The lesson plan.

There is a great “how-to” part of this passage which gives us ideas on how to give our little ones the best chance of success as they leave. These aren’t the *only* methods to use, but they are some good ones!

1. **Commitment.** It’s “caught” not “taught.”

Deuteronomy 6: 6, And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

2. **Repetition.** Consistent truth-telling shapes little minds.

Deuteronomy 6:7a, “Repeat them again and again to your children ...”

3. **Integration.** Include your faith as an everyday, normal part of life.

Deuteronomy 6:7b, “... Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”

4. **Practice Exercises.** Put your faith into practice with your hands and mind.

Deuteronomy 6:8, “Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.”

5. **Insulation.** Make your home a “safe house” where faith in Jesus reigns!

Deuteronomy 6:9, “Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

MAIN POINT: It’s my job as a Christian adult to teach the generations below me the way of Christ.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, empower me to be a great teacher of the next generation! Help children I interact with see the value of a growing faith in my life. Dare I ask Lord that you use me to *inspire* and *transform* little lives for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.”