

TYLER MCKENZIE
Lead Pastor

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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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. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.



The OG Commission - Dt 6:4-9

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Generational forgetfulness is
part of the human condition.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Joshua 4:20-24
- Psalm 78:1-4

Psalm 78:1-4

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known, that our

ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from

their children; we will tell to the coming generation the

glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,

and the wonders that he has done.

- It is no coincidence that by the time we reach the ministry of Jesus He Himself remembers. As a child, it seems His parents took great care to raise Him. The Gospel of Luke tells us He grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and others (Lk 2:52).

- Jesus, assumedly raised like most Jewish boys, learns to pray the Shema and when He comes of age, He deems it the greatest command in the Hebrew Scriptures (**Mt 22:37-38**).

- Another interesting example found in the New Testament is that of Timothy. Acts tells us that Timothy was a peculiar case. His mother was Jewish but his father was Greek (**Acts 16:1-3**). Nonetheless, his mother and grandmother went to great lengths to teach him the story of their ancestral faith.

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15

I [Paul] am reminded of your [Timothy] sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you ...

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Luke 2:52

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

Matthew 22:36-38

“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

The Bad News

The process of intergenerational faith transmission is broken. Parents show low levels of missional engagement. Children show low levels of genuine faith.

Family Needs Survey

- “More than half of parents said their families never or rarely engaged in any sort of family devotional time.”
- “Of the minority that did practice some sort of family devotions, one-fourth admitted these times were sporadic.”
- “Approximately 40% of parents never, rarely, or only occasionally discussed spiritual matters w/their children.”
- “Nearly one-fourth of parents never or rarely prayed with their children”
- “Another one-fourth only prayed with their children occasionally.”

Family Needs Survey

“The overwhelming majority of Christian parents are not actively engaged in any sort of battle for their children’s souls. When it comes to the process of discipling their progeny, most Christian parents...have abandoned the field.” - *Timothy Paul Jones*

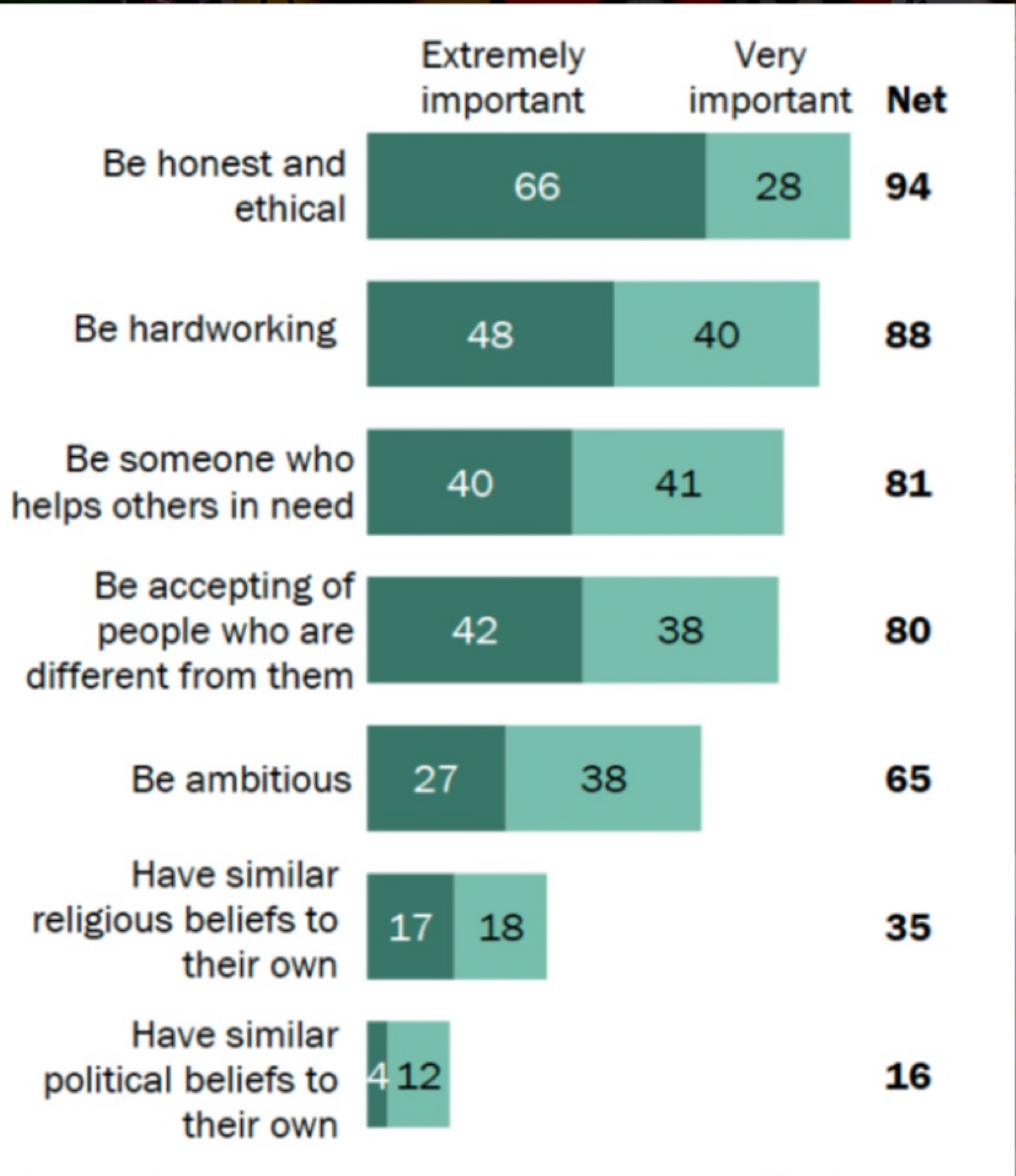
Barna:

68% of youth pastors say their biggest obstacle in discipling youth are parents who do not prioritize it in their kid's schedule.

T-BALL PRACTICE FRIDAY

Fewer than half of parents place a lot of importance on their children sharing their religious and political beliefs

% of parents saying it is extremely or very important to them that their children ____ as adults



Barna & Impact 360 Institute

- There is a 9% drop in self-identification as Christian from 68% to 59% among teens.
- Gen Z teens are “twice as likely as adults to say they are atheist (13% vs. 6%).”
- Religion ranked as the sixth most important part of who they are behind professional/educational achievement, hobbies, gender/sexuality, friends, and family.
- Only 34% of Gen Z reported that religion was very important to who they are.
- Almost one-quarter of Gen Z strongly agrees that what is morally right and wrong changes based on time and place.
- 21% believe that every individual is the moral arbiter for themselves.
- Only 34% strongly agree that lying is morally wrong.

The Good News

Parents are by far the biggest influence on the spiritual lives of their kids. Not peers, not the media, not Tik-Tok, not Hollywood, not youth pastors and church, not their teachers and schools, not their coaches and sports.

Smith and Adamczyk, Handing Down the Faith

- "The best predictor of what any American's religious life will be like in adulthood is how their parents held their religious beliefs while raising them."

- "If there were one practical take-away from our research, it would be ... parents need not only to walk the walk but also regularly to talk with their children about their walk, what it means, why it matters, why they care."

“Parents set a “glass ceiling” of religious commitment above which their children rarely rise. Parental religious investment and involvement is in almost all cases the necessary and even sometimes sufficient condition for children’s religious investment and involvement.”

-Christian Smith,
Handing Down the Faith

Who is influencing the next gen the most?

- Key Agents? – Parents
- Key Location? – Home
- Key Mechanisms? – Ordinary life practice

Bottom Line

You cannot guarantee it, but the best chance for your kid to be a Christian as an adult is ... you.

James Hollis

1. Separation from childhood – “You’re not a baby anymore. You got to grow up.”
2. Death of naivete – “Life is hard. People aren’t always nice. Evil exists. Pain is real. So is death.”
3. Impartation of the tribes’ religion, story, and required roles – “This is how you fit in the world.”
4. The big test – “Let’s see if you’re ready to be a man or a woman.”
5. The blessing ceremony – “Welcome to adulthood.”
6. Reintegration - "Embedded back into society to serve."



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Parental Trends

- Protection over initiation
- Happiness over readiness
- Friendship over leadership
- Individual actualization over communal integration
- Screen based childhoods over play-based childhoods
- Expert outsourcing over parental responsibility

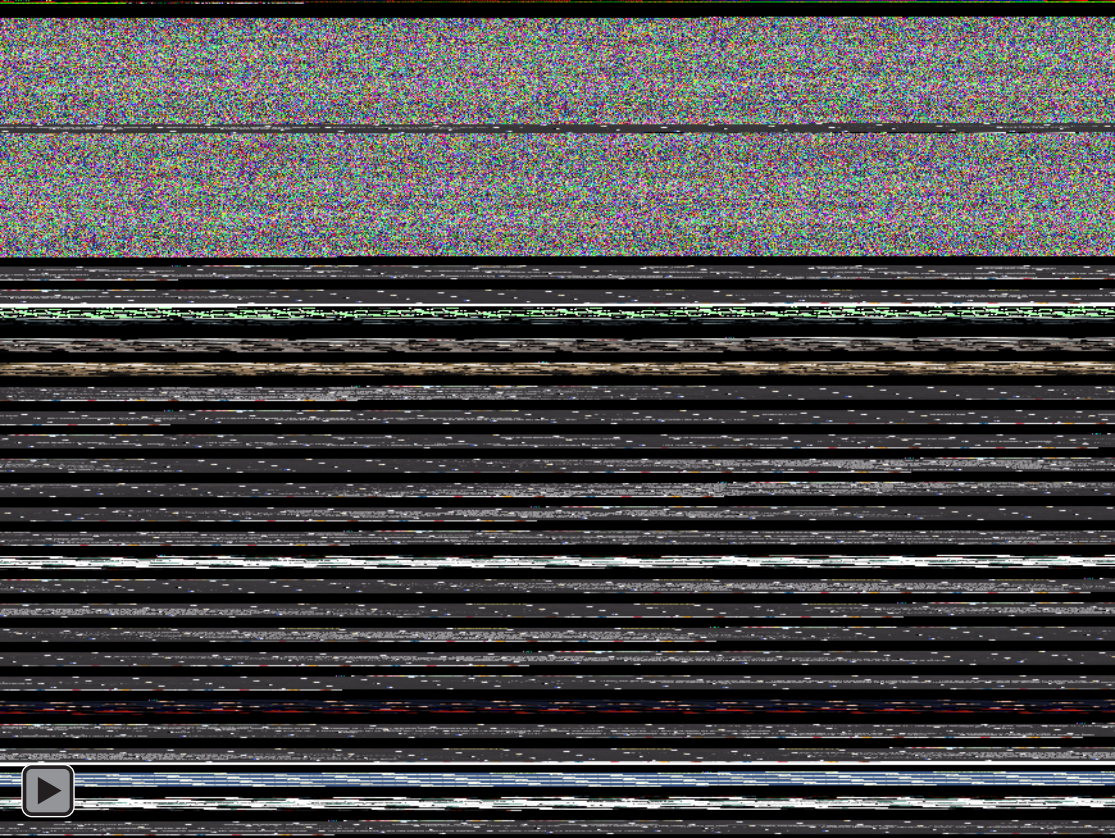
Rule of Manhood

Kids expect others to take responsibility for them and to serve them.

Men take responsibility for themselves in order to serve others.


"Influence Multipliers" for parents...

- Daily Conversation – I talk often about my faith.
- Emotional Warmth – I am affectionate, caring, and fun.
- Spiritual Integrity – My decisions match my values.



INTENTIONAL PARENTING INFLUENCE AUDIT

Child's name: _____

	Time Spent:	Faith Convos:	Moments of Warmth (Affection, Care, Fun)	Integrity lapses:	Prayers prayed:
MON:					
TUES:					
WED:					
THUR:					
FRI:					
SAT:					
SUN:					

August 11 - The Biggest Influence on Kids' Lives Today

August 18 - The Best Parenting Style According to the Data

August 25 - A Parenting Book By an Atheist You Should Read

September 1 - Three Strategies I'm Using Right Now

September 8 - Parenting From a Place of Rest



“They are the last binding obligation in a culture that asks for almost no other permanent commitments at all.”

“Few of us would want to reverse the historical advance that gave us our newfound freedoms ...[but we have] come to define liberty negatively, as lack of dependence, the right not to be obligated to others.”

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