

Family Devotion

"Life Is A Highway - Watch For Children"



"I Will Watch For Children!"

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers..."

- 1 Tim 4:12

Write the following math problems on a sheet of paper:

$$\Delta\Delta\Delta + \Delta\Delta =$$

$$18 - 13 =$$

$$1675/15 =$$

$$x^2 - 5x + 5 = 0$$

Ask your kids how many of the problems they can solve and then allow them to solve the ones they can. Depending on their ages and skills, your kids may not be able to solve any of them, may be able to solve all of them, or may be somewhere in between. Discuss the following questions:

- Where did you learn how to solve the problems that you solved?
- How did you learn how to solve the problems? (*Emphasize that someone showed them how to first solve the problems, then they practiced solving similar problems*)
- What might have been helpful to you in solving the problems you didn't know how to work? (*An example problem or someone showing you how to do it*)
- When you don't know how to solve a math problem, what do you usually do?

Remind your kids that you've been talking about how life is a highway. Tell them that one of the signs they'll come across on their journey is "Watch for Children." Ask them if they remember from the sermon who the children are in their lives. Emphasize that anyone who is younger than they are, whether in age, experience, or maturity, might be a child they need to watch for. Then talk about the following:

- Name some of the people you know who might be a child compared to you. (*This could be younger siblings or friends, but it also could be people who are physically older than you but are newer Christians, or people who have had less experience in an area than you have.*)
- How are the math problems like our life journey? (*We're all in different places and at different levels of ability. We have to master the simple problems before we can move to the complex problems.*)
- How is learning to solve the math problems like our life journey? (*We learn by watching the examples other people show us and then imitating their behavior.*)

- What are some of the things you've done in the past that have set a good example for the "children" who are following you?
- What are some of the things you've done in the past that might not have been a good example for them to follow? (*Parents, feel free to volunteer some of your personal examples here, and don't embarrass your kids by pointing out their mistakes if they don't mention them.*)

Read **1Timothy 4:12** to your kids: "*Don't let anyone look down on you because you're young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.*" Tell your kids that whether they realize it or not, there's always someone watching how they act and the "children" watching them may decide to start acting like them. That's why they need to set a good example.

Also remind your kids that no one's perfect, and that they will make mistakes along the road. Once they make a mistake, their "children" will be waiting to see how they respond. By responding in a way that glorifies God, those watching them can learn from their mistakes as well as their successes.

Pray together, thanking God that He has given you the privilege of influencing other people. Ask Him to help you be aware of the way other people may perceive your actions and your speech so that both will bring Him praise.