

GENESIS *of a* LEGACY

CURRICULUM

BASED ON THE WRITINGS AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS OF

KEN HAM & STEVE HAM

COMPILED BY STACIA MCKEEVER

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INTRODUCTION

GENESIS *of a* LEGACY

The Psalmist, guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote in Psalm 127:3–5 (NASB):

Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.

How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;
They will not be ashamed
When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Truly, children are a blessing and gift from the Lord and a source of great joy to parents. Yet children can also be the cause of great heartache to many parents. We see disobedient children throwing temper tantrums in the supermarket. Schools are filled with wild and unruly students. Increasingly, even children of Christian parents are “leaving the fold” once they graduate and head off on their own.

While each individual child is responsible for his decisions and behavior before the Lord, the Bible is full of commands to parents regarding how they should train up their children and warnings of what will happen if they do not fulfill the instructions of the Creator. With this curriculum, our desire is not to merely provide “how-to” instructions on child-rearing, but rather to exhort parents to understand that raising their children is their *ministry*, not merely another job on their list of things to do. Parents who instill in their families a love for the Lord are, in effect, carrying out the Great Commission given to us by our Lord and Savior (Matthew 28:19–20). Truly, raising godly children is one of the means by which our Creator enables us to fulfill this command.

The Lord has promised to give us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us to eternal life (2 Peter 1:3). Although each child is unique and individual circumstances vary greatly, God has promised that His

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Word is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Throughout this course we'll be discussing what the Bible—the Word of the One who created us and called us to eternal life—teaches about raising children to be godly. We'll be addressing questions such as the following:

- ✦ What is my goal in raising my children?
- ✦ How can I make the Bible “real” to my children?
- ✦ What does the Bible say about my role in my family?
- ✦ What does the Bible say about discipline?
- ✦ How do I know God's Word is an all-sufficient parenting guide?
- ✦ How can I effectively communicate the truths of Scripture to my children?
- ✦ What are my educational choices?
- ✦ What should I teach my children about being wise stewards of their possessions?

Over the next 11 weeks, Ken Ham (president and CEO of *Answers in Genesis*) and his younger brother Stephen Ham will be our guides as we discover that the genesis of the legacy we leave for our children begins as we love the Lord and accept His Word as our authority, committing to use it to guide us in all areas of our lives.

How to Use This Curriculum

Session Requirements

For each lesson, you will need:

- ✦ DVD player, projector, screen (if not using your computer to play the DVDs)
- ✦ Leader's Guide
- ✦ Bible
- ✦ The appropriate number of copies of participants' worksheets (one set per person—permission is granted to copy the worksheets from the accompanying DVDs or download them from www.AnswersInGenesis.org/go/GOAL). We suggest purchasing (or having each participant purchase) a 3-hole ring binder for each participant to keep their worksheets in (a printable “cover sheet” for the binder is available on the accompanying DVD).

NOTE: Participants may elect to purchase a copy of this manual for themselves, instead of using the worksheets. Additional copies of this guide are available from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling 1-800-778-3390.

Participant's Requirements

For each lesson, the participant will need:

- Participant worksheets (which feature the lesson outline, discussion questions, homework and list of suggested resources)
- Bible
- Writing tool

Lesson Components

We provide a lesson overview and lesson objectives for the leader at the beginning of each lesson.

Each lesson should take approximately 60 minutes to complete and is divided into the following components:

1. Getting Started (12 minutes)

During this time, welcome the participants to the session, make any announcements, begin with prayer, etc.

Spend five minutes reviewing the homework from the previous week. Encourage participants to share what they've learned and to hold each other accountable for what they're learning.

Go over the "Getting Started" section with participants. Answers for these questions can be found in the Answer Key.

2. Lesson (25–35 minutes)

This course is a combination of video-led and facilitator-led sessions. Six sessions (1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 11) feature videos by either Ken Ham or Steve Ham, while the other five sessions (4, 5, 6, 7, 10) are to be led by the facilitator. Please go over the lessons during the previous week, asking your pastor or church leaders any questions that you may have concerning the content of the lesson. We have provided room in the margins for any notes you wish to make.

Illustrations and *Putting It into Practice* segments for the facilitator-led sessions can be found on the corresponding DVD. The *Putting It into Practice* video segments (found on the accompanying DVDs) featured throughout the lesson and the discussion time are meant to be an encouragement to participants and to provide practical ideas on how to implement many of the concepts addressed in the sessions. For these segments, we interviewed godly

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parents from Bible-believing churches who have raised—or are in the process of raising—their children to follow the Lord. Encourage participants to jot down any ideas that might be helpful to them as they watch these short (3–4 minute) segments.

3. Bringing It Home (13–23 minutes)

The questions provided in this section are designed to help participants to evaluate what they heard in the lesson and think about how they can apply it to their lives. You may want to break your class into smaller groups to discuss the questions.

Answers for these questions can be found in the Answer Key.

End the session with prayer that the Holy Spirit would enable participants to apply the truths they have learned.

4. Frequently Asked Questions

In many lessons, we offer short answers to some of the more frequently asked questions concerning parenting and the Bible and point them toward resources which address the questions in more detail. You may want to go over these during class or assign them as homework.

5. Homework

This section is designed to encourage participants to continue to evaluate and apply the content of the lesson during the following week.

6. For More Information

There are many excellent resources that can encourage believers in their walk with the Lord and in their desire to parent their children. These are featured in these sections and, unless otherwise noted, are available from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling 1-800-778-3390. A complete list of all resources is provided on pages 139–140.

How to Get the Most out of This Curriculum

1. Be flexible as you facilitate the group discussion. We have provided suggested responses; however, allow participants to discuss their views, within reason, while guiding them to understand what the Bible teaches.
2. Take your time as you go through the questions—feel free to spend more time on some questions over others. Allow the participants' interest level to guide the discussion.

3. Do not allow any one person to monopolize the discussion—be careful to include all participants.
4. If participants aren't able to finish all the "Bringing It Home" discussion questions during the allotted time, suggest they take some time during the week to answer them.

About the *Genesis of a Legacy* Curriculum and Book

The *Genesis of a Legacy* curriculum is based on the DVDs featuring Ken Ham and Steve Ham. Their same-titled book (not included with the curriculum, but available at AnswersBookstore.com) adds an historical perspective to this topic as they address in more detail the legacy their father left them and their siblings.

Acknowledgments

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Rhonda Musser, mother of 4 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)
Steve Wilt, father of 3 (Kenton Baptist)

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Parental mission statements

Pastor Brad Bigney, father of 5 (Grace Fellowship)
Tony Ramsek, father of 3 (Heritage Family Bible Chapel)
Dave and Ellen Liebing, parents of 5 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)
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Using evolutionary propaganda

Mark Looy, father of 3 (Grace Fellowship)
Carl Kerby, father of 2 (Big Bone Baptist)

Educational philosophy

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Charmaine Shazier, mother of 3 (First Baptist of Walton)

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Pastor Cecil and Vicki Eggert, parents of 3 (Calvary Baptist)
Ron Uebel, father of 2 (Heritage Family Bible Chapel)
H.A. and Rhonda Musser, parents of 4 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)
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H.A. and Rhonda Musser, parents of 4 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)

Sacrificial love

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H.A. and Rhonda Musser, parents of 4 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)
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Why won't my children listen?

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Santa Claus and your children

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INTRODUCTION

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Sam Dingus, father of 4 (Erlanger Baptist)
Rhonda Musser, mother of 4 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)
Dave and Ellen Liebing, parents of 5 (Bible Chapel of Delhi Hills)

SESSION 7

COMMUNICATING BIBLICALLY WITH YOUR CHILDREN

You will need DVD 3 for this lesson

Overview

In the previous lesson, we discussed the importance of lovingly disciplining our children as we bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. An important aspect of loving discipline is communicating to our children what they have done wrong and how they can correct it. However, communicating the truths of Scripture with our children should not be limited to the discipline process, but should pervade every area of our lives as we seek to develop in them a love for God and His Word.

During this session, we will be discussing various aspects of how the Creator wants us to share His truth with our children (and others!). We will look at some of the defining characteristics of communication that honor the Lord and discuss the importance of using biblical terminology to define and correct sinful patterns of behavior. We will be challenging the participants to evaluate their current communication practices and encouraging them to conform to what the Lord desires of us.

Preparing for the Lesson

This is the fourth lesson in which the teaching section is led by you, the facilitator, rather than by video. Please spend time going over the material in this lesson during the week before you are scheduled to present this lesson.

- The illustrations and *Putting It into Practice* segments are available on DVD 3.

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- ✦ If you, as the instructor, have any appropriate personal anecdotes that enhance or illustrate the points made in this lesson and honor the Lord, please feel free to add them as you go along.
- ✦ We have provided multiple Bible passages to read and study throughout these facilitator-led sessions. The verses in parentheses are supplemental to the other verses and may be read as you have time (otherwise, encourage participants to read them during the following week).
- ✦ For the sake of time, you may want to write the passage references given throughout the lesson on individual slips of paper beforehand and pass them out to participants, asking them to read their assigned passage at the appropriate time. Or you may want to have everyone turn to the passage being discussed. The decision is left to you.

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, participants should be able to:

- ✦ Explain why it is important to communicate biblically.
- ✦ Define sins and virtues using biblical terminology.
- ✦ Identify teaching moments in everyday life using the “Deuteronomy 6” principle.
- ✦ Initiate a plan to evaluate the unique struggles of each of your children.
- ✦ Identify biblical (and unbiblical) attitudes in our speech patterns.

Getting Started



Welcome participants to class, open in prayer, make announcements, etc.

In this session, we’ll be looking at what the Bible says about communicating in a way that honors the Lord and applying this to how we train our children. First, however, let’s consider a few examples of how people can communicate.

1. Have you ever experienced a parent belittling or screaming at their child in public, such as in the grocery store? What went through your mind at the time? How did it make you feel to watch the situation?

2. Suppose your six-year-old son is constantly pushing his younger sister. What is the difference between saying “Well, boys will be boys” and saying he has a problem with a “violent spirit”?

Lesson

ILLUSTRATION 7-00

In many ways, all Christians are in the business of communication. After all, it is through the “foolishness of the message preached” that God saves those who believe (1 Corinthians 1:21, NASB). And we know that all of Scripture is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, NASB).

Our words can also destroy ourselves and others—“the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body” (James 3:6, NASB). The same member of our bodies capable of sharing the saving grace of Christ can be just as effective in propagating false doctrine and slander.

We need to remember that the way we communicate with our children will profoundly impact their worldview. Let’s begin this session by looking at what the Bible teaches us about *how* we are to communicate.

A. How to communicate

ILLUSTRATION 7-01

1. Use gentleness, sweetness of speech



Read Galatians 5:25–6:4 and Proverbs 16:21 (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

A believer’s speech should be characterized by “gentleness” (Galatians 6:1, NASB), “sweetness of speech” (Proverbs 16:21, NASB) and “with grace, as though seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6, NASB). This is especially important to remember as we converse with our children, since their communication patterns will be profoundly influenced by how we communicate with them. It is easy, especially when they are disobeying us for the tenth time in an hour, to slip into fleshly patterns of speech. (But then, you weren’t keeping a record of wrongs, were you?) What are some such sinful patterns that we can exhibit?

Answer: Allow participants to respond. Galatians mentions being boastful, challenging (in the sense of prideful) and envious. We might also respond in anger, yell, use sarcasm (i.e., have a “holier-than-thou” attitude), be vindictive, etc.

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Read James 1:20

James specifically notes that “the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God” (NASB). Fruit-bearing children are not grown from the fertilizer of fearing angry, vindictive parents.

ILLUSTRATION 7-02

2. Use both reproof and encouragement



Read 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Romans 1:8; Philippians 1:3-5)

We need to take care that we are not only reproofing and rebuking our children, but that we are also encouraging and praising what is good. When your children exhibit obedience to God’s commands, be quick to point it out to them, especially if it is something with which they have been struggling. If your normally selfish three-year-old suddenly one morning asks your six-year-old if he would like the larger bowl of cereal, celebrate that he is considering others more important than himself!

ILLUSTRATION 7-03

3. Listen and observe



Read James 1:19-20 (Proverbs 10:19, 18:13)

We need to remember that communicating with our children (or with anyone, for that matter) involves speaking as well as listening. It’s easy to slip into a pattern of talking *at* our children, rather than talking *with* them. Without listening and observation, we may not be aware of the sinful behaviors that are unique to each child. As we make a conscious effort to do this, eventually it will become a habit for us, and enable us to evaluate and respond to our children in a more effective way.

ILLUSTRATION 7-04

B. Where and when to communicate: The Deuteronomy 6 principle



Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Communicating biblically with our children should not be confined to formal family devotional times and discipline sessions. We are encouraged to speak of the things of the Lord throughout the day and wherever we might find ourselves. Oftentimes it is those Spirit-led informal teaching sessions, during the otherwise routine events of life, that sink deepest into the heart.

To see an expert in this principle, we have only to carefully study the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Our Messiah constantly drew analogies and used His physical surroundings, historical events, circumstances, comments from the crowd, etc.



Watch *Putting It into Practice—the Deuteronomy 6 principle.*

Let's discuss some practical ways that we can keep the commands of Christ as part of our discussion throughout the day.

Answer: Allow participants to respond. At its simplest, objects can remind us of biblical lessons (for example, a rainbow for Noah's flood; a supermarket for Jesus feeding the crowds). Others may be more abstract; there is really no end to the possibilities.

ILLUSTRATION 7-05

C. What to communicate: Using biblical vocabulary



Read 2 Timothy 3:16 (Psalm 19:7-11)

As we think about striving to communicate biblical principles with our children, we may think the Bible has little to say about certain situations. This may be because we fail to define the problem in biblical terms. For example, you will look in vain for the verse on "not eating broccoli." In such situations, try to define the problem biblically:

- ✦ Is the exhibited behavior symptomatic of a particular sin?
- ✦ Is there a biblical synonym that I can look up in a concordance?

When we define our broccoli problem biblically (perhaps "selfish," "ungrateful," "finding fault" or simply "disobedient"), we can look those words up in a concordance and apply biblical wisdom. We can also show these verses to our children so that they understand that it is *God's* commands they are disobeying.

The same principle applies to praising our children. If we define their positive characteristics in biblical terms, we can show them through the Scripture how they are obeying God.

Training our minds (and our children's minds) to think in biblical terms also protects us from being deceived by euphemisms¹ that distort biblical truth. For example, pride (Proverbs 11:2) is called "self-esteem;" Someone is "blunt; forthright; tell-it-like-it-is" instead of guilty of "harsh words" (Proverbs 15:1).



Read Ephesians 4:22-25 (Colossians 3:8-12)

The Bible speaks of the Christian walk in terms of "putting off" the old nature and "putting on" the new nature. We can apply this same principle in training our children. Instead of continually saying "don't do that," we can explain the sinful behavior or at-

¹ "Euphemism" is the substitution of a milder term to replace one that might be considered offensive. At times, this can help us be gentle in our speech. However, more often than not they are used to mislead ("used cars" are "pre-owned cars"; abortion advocates are "pro-choice.")

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titude that they need to “put off,” why it displeases the Lord, and then teach them the alternative behavior that they need to “put on.” Ephesians 4:25 provides one example: we are to lay aside falsehood (“put off”) and instead speak truth (“put on”).

You will have a chance to practice these concepts in the “Bringing It Home” section.

D. Why we need to use biblical vocabulary

ILLUSTRATION 7-06



Read John 17:17 and 2 Timothy 3:15–17 (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23)

Regeneration and sanctification are the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our children, and so we need to be continually pleading with Him to save and sanctify our children (John 3:6–7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13). However, one of the primary means that He uses to effect change in our lives and in the lives of our children is through the Word of God. Thus, we must take care that both the content (what we are saying) and the attitude (how we are saying it) of our speech be grounded in Scripture. Our goal should be that this rich indwelling of the Word of Christ (Colossians 3:16) will equip our children to think and communicate biblically as they mature and eventually go out on their own.



Read Galatians 5:13–18 and 1 John 5:2–4 (Joshua 22:4–6; Psalm 119:167; John 14:15; Colossians 3:15–17)

We do not want to raise children capable of obeying only man-made systems of rules and regulations, or children who obey to gain the approval of others. The effective Christian life is characterized by obedience to Christ’s commands motivated by a love for God, directed by communion with the indwelling Holy Spirit. This type of obedience comes from a thorough understanding of the Scripture.

ILLUSTRATION 7-07

The late Dr. Henry Morris remarked,

The godly man does not arrive at spiritual maturity instantaneously. It is a lifelong process, but **every stage of that growth must come from the Word.**² (emphasis added)

In this session, we can only hope to scratch the tip of the surface of this subject; we would encourage you to study and meditate on this more on your own time.

² Dr. Henry Morris, *Treasures in the Psalms*, Master Books, 2000, p. 118.

Bringing It Home

1. Let's apply what we've been learning above to a hypothetical situation where your child is whining. Think of a situation which might incite whining.

What is the biblical terminology for the child's behavior?

What are some relevant verses?

How would you communicate to your child what he has done wrong?

2. Your child does not obey your command to clean his room. Name a biblical way and an unbiblical way you might respond.
3. Around the dinner table with your family, you are discussing a decision at work that you disagree with. Name a biblical way and an unbiblical way you might converse.
4. Choose a few of the following experiences that might be common to your everyday life and brainstorm ways to apply the "Deuteronomy 6" principle.
 - + Gardening
 - + Mowing the grass
 - + Passing by a homeless shelter
 - + Grocery shopping
 - + When something breaks
 - + Overhearing a harsh conversation

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5. The chart at the end of this session contains a number of specific manifestations of problems you may have with your children. Try to define them biblically, name the “put on” alternative and list some relevant Scripture references. You can do some during this session, and complete the chart (and add more) for homework.



Close in prayer, and briefly go over the homework assignment with participants.

Homework

1. Review the verses included in the lesson that you did not have time to read during class. Write down the principles in each one and indicate how you might apply them in your parenting.
2. For each of your children, list three qualities for which you can praise them. Define the qualities biblically, make note of the Bible references that highlight these qualities, and describe specifically how your child is being obedient to the Creator’s commands. Make plans to communicate this praise to them. Pray with your children, asking the Lord to continue developing these characteristics in their lives. Every few months, review this list and revise as needed.
3. For each of your children, list three qualities with which they are struggling. Define the qualities biblically, make note of the Bible references that highlight these qualities, and describe specifically how your child is being disobedient to God’s commands. Plan to share this with them the next time they exhibit this behavior during your discipline session. Pray with your children, asking the Lord to help them to change in these areas. Every few months, review this list and revise as needed.
4. Continue working on drafting a family mission statement that will help you and your spouse to parent your children. What does the Creator want for your children? What verses can you use to guide you?

For More Information

- *Shepherding a Child’s Heart* by Tedd Tripp

The things your child does and says flow from the heart (Luke 6:45). Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child’s heart into the paths of life.

- “Don’t Make Me Count to Three!” by Ginger Plowman

Do you find yourself threatening, repeating your instructions or raising your voice in an attempt to get your children to obey? Are you discouraged because it

seems you just can't reach the heart of your child? Through personal experience and practical application of Scripture, Ginger Plowman helps moms move beyond the frustrations of not knowing how to handle issues of disobedience and into a confident, well-balanced approach to raising their children.

- ✦ *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* by Paul Tripp

From the argument over the last donut, to the cry of "nothing to wear" a half-hour before school, Paul Tripp uncovers the heart issues affecting parents and their teenagers during the often chaotic adolescent years. He shows parents how to seize the countless opportunities to deepen communication, learn and grow with their teenagers.

- ✦ *Teach Them Diligently: How to Use the Scriptures in Child Training* by Lou Priolo

With all of your training, do you really know how to use the Bible for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness with your children? If you don't, this little book will augment and strengthen your parenting skills as you learn how to use the Scriptures more thoroughly and effectively in your child training.

- ✦ *Everyday Talk—Talking Freely and Naturally about God with Your Children* by John A. Younts

This book offers practical, creative ways to carry out the Deuteronomy 6 principle. Learn how to use ordinary conversations to show your kids the goodness and wisdom of God.

- ✦ *Wisdom for Today's Issues: A Topical Arrangement of the Proverbs* by Stephen Voorwinde

Finding all that the Proverbs say on any given topic can be difficult. Yet nothing is more relevant to the issues of our day, and nothing is more needed in an aimless society, than the divinely inspired Proverbs. This handbook is designed to make the Proverbs more accessible to readers today. Every verse in Proverbs is categorized and printed in full for quick reference.

- ✦ *The Young Peacemaker* by Corlette Sande

This curriculum (which features a leader's guide and student activity books) teaches students to respond to conflict God's way.

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Behavior	Biblical characteristic to “put off”	Biblical characteristic to “put on”	Relevant verses
Fights with a sibling over a toy	Selfishness	Counting others more important than self	Philippians 2:3–4; Proverbs 11:24–25; Romans 12:20–21; James 3:13–18 and 1 Peter 4:9–11
Refuses to take a bath	Stubborn; insubordinate	Respectful; obedient; submissive	
Room is constantly messy	Laziness, sluggardness, slothfulness		
Cries when you turn out the lights			
Consistently fails to say “thank you”			
Makes fun of a sibling when that sibling fails			
Does not ever want to stop playing video games			
Consistently provokes a sibling			
Constantly requests something new to do			