

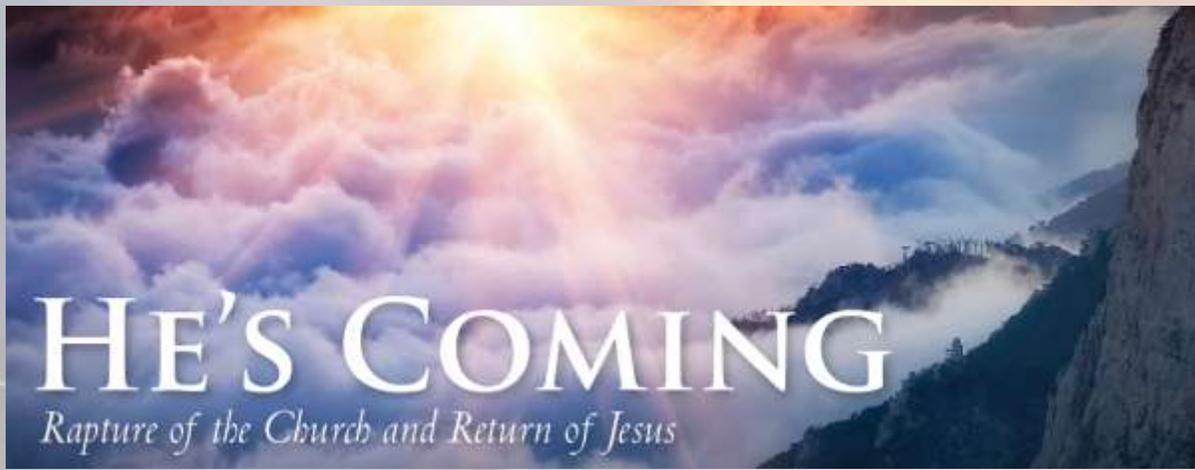




Jesus said, “You too, **be ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.” Luke 12:40

Jesus said, “For this reason you also must **be ready**; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.” Matthew 24:44





We believe Jesus' promise that He is coming for His Church. We need to be ready for His arrival. In what areas of life do you need to get ready?



In this series... “Get Ready my _____”

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| June 5 | heart |
| June 12 | mind |
| June 19 | family |
| June 26 | marriage |
| July 3 | nation |
| July 10 | time |
| July 17 | career |
| July 24 | relationships |
| July 31 | testimony |
| August 7 | money |
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Today is Father's Day

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:1

As parents, if we get our hearts and minds ready, we can help our children get their hearts and minds ready.



Get Ready My Family

Deuteronomy 6:1-25



Prescription for Parents

Moses said, “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.”

Deuteronomy 6:1-2



“the land where you are going”

Does it feel like your family is stuck in neutral spiritually?

God’s expectation is for your family to keep moving forward spiritually. Spiritual progress is not unusual.

Where are you now? Where are you headed?

“Train up a child in the way he should go (Proverbs 22:6) – but be sure you go that way yourself.”

– Charles Spurgeon



“You and your son and your grandson”

“children are a gift of the Lord” Psalm 127:3

Are you building a legacy of faithfulness?

HOW are you building a legacy of faithfulness?

What is the spiritual heritage of your family?



Be careful to do it

“O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. Hear (Hebrew שמע “Shema”), O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love (Hebrew אהב “aheb”) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 6:3-5



“so that it may be well with you” Deut. 6:3 (NAS)

“so that you may prosper and multiply greatly” (HCSB)

This phrase occurs 8 times in the Book of Deuteronomy

Is that what your family wants?

Is that what your family needs?

How? “listen and be careful to do it”



“Teach them diligently”

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

What is your plan to learn?

What is your plan to teach?

“Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.” – Pastor Chuck Swindoll



“Teach them diligently” – Does it really matter?

- If both mom and dad attend church regularly, 72% of their children will remain faithful later in life
- If only dad attends church regularly, 55%
- If only mom attends church regularly, 15%
- If neither mom nor dad attend church regularly, 6%

source: *Drawing Men to God: Men's Ministry Manual* by Sid Woodruff



The passion of First Melissa is to make disciples of Jesus who:

- Reach Intentionally
- Connect Authentically
- Equip Continuously
- Live Passionately



THEREFORE...

The passion of First Melissa **families is to make disciples of Jesus**



Christian psychiatrist Dr. Paul Meier lists factors that produce right parent–child relations:

1. Genuine love of the parents for each other and for the children
2. Firm, consistent discipline
3. Consistency of standards for parents and children
4. The right example by parents
5. The father as true head of the home



Biblical parenting requires TIME

Tenderness

Initiative

Moral standards

Expectations



Whose job is it?

Ignite Kids and Strive Students exist to partner with families to passionately make disciples of Jesus.

Who is getting their family ready for Jesus?

Video testimony – Brian Stopinski



Partnering with families to make disciples

- Camp last week for Strive Students (grades 7-12)
- Camp this week for Ignite Kids (grades 3-6)



“Bind them as a sign”

“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:8-9



mezuzah (מזוזה "doorpost")

תפילין תefillin



Your God Provides

“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Deuteronomy 6:10-12



Your God Provides Deliverance

“then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” Deuteronomy 6:12

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father” Galatians 1:3-4

מְשִׁיחַ Messiah = Deliverer, one who gives freedom from distress



He is a Jealous God

“You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.”

Deuteronomy 6:13-15



Ignore the crowds

“You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you” Deuteronomy 6:14

Your family cannot honor God if you care more about what people think than what God thinks.

Your family cannot honor God if you first (or only) consult with neighbors and friends about moral values and spiritual decisions.



“In the sight of the Lord”

“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. You should diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore to give your fathers, by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.” Deuteronomy 6:16-19

*Exodus 17:1-7... People tested God (Massah מַסָּה)



“We were slaves”

“When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the Lord our God commanded you?’ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand.’ ”

Deuteronomy 6:20-21



“He brought us out from there”

“ ‘Moreover, the Lord showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.’ So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us.”

Deuteronomy 6:22-25

- Do you have a testimony of God’s past faithfulness?
- How are you sharing it with your children?



Action Verbs in Raising Children (Deut. 6)

- Fear the Lord your God
- Keep all His statutes
- Listen
- Be careful to do it
- Love the Lord your God
- Teach them diligently
- Do not forget the Lord
- Fear only the Lord your God
- Worship Him
- Swear by His name
- Do not follow other gods
- Do not put the Lord your God to the test
- Diligently keep the commandments of the Lord
- Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord
- Observe all these statutes
- Fear the Lord our God
- Observe all this commandment



In America, what a difference 50 years makes...

“The family is the cornerstone of our society. More than any other force it shapes the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child. And when the family collapses, it is the children that are usually damaged. When it happens on a massive scale the community itself is crippled.”

– Lyndon Johnson in June, 1965

“Yes, we've cut the maternal mortality rate in half, but far too many women are still denied critical access to reproductive health care and safe childbirth, and laws don't count for much if they're not enforced. Rights have to exist in practice — not just on paper. Laws have to be backed up with resources and political will. **And deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed.**”

– Hillary Clinton in June, 2015



Getting Your Family Ready for Jesus



- “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God” Romans 8:14-16
- “But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children” Psalm 103:17
- “The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.” Proverbs 12:7
- “He (Cornelius) and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” Acts 10:2
- “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**” Joshua 24:15

