



Raising The Next Generation **Deuteronomy 34:5-12 Exodus 2:1-10**

Scripture

Deuteronomy 34:5-12

So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's word.

6 He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows where his grave is.

7 Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not left him.

8 The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.

9 Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

10 No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

11 He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do against the land of Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land—

12 and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. CSB

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman.

²The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son; when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

³ But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with asphalt and pitch. She placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

⁴ Then his sister stood at a distance in order to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe at the Nile while her servant girls walked along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds, sent her slave girl, took it,

⁶ opened it, and saw him, the child—and there he was, a little boy, crying. She felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew boys."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a Hebrew woman who is nursing to nurse the boy for you?"

⁸ "Go," Pharaoh's daughter told her. So the girl went and called the boy's mother.

⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the boy and nursed him.

¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." CSB

Quote of the Day

"The most powerful way to change the world is to live in front of our children the way we would like the world to be." — Graham White

Mother's deserve their own holiday because being a mother is demanding, exhausting, overwhelming, and all-consuming.

Mary Thomas was a single mom of nine children living in Chicago's rough West Side neighborhood. Seven of Mary's nine kids were boys, young men constantly stretching the boundaries of their tired mother's authority and patience.

One day in 1966, Mary opened her front door to find 25 street thugs on her stoop. The men, members of the notorious Vice Lords gang, had come to recruit her seven sons. Mary, hearing their intentions, dropped her gaze, said "Oh, okay. Hold on just a second," and closed the door.

When the door opened again, the first thing the Vice Lords saw was the barrel of a loaded shotgun. "There's only one gang around here, and that's the Thomas gang."

With that same fortitude, Mary Thomas ushered each of her nine "gang members" to their high school graduation. You may have heard of her youngest son—pro basketball player and Hall of Famer Isaiah Thomas. From the example of Mary Thomas we learn our Family is worth fighting for! Citation: Judy Dutton, "Ten Badass Moms Who Deserve Their Own Holidays," Mental Floss (5-9-13)

Being a mother is a special, demanding, frustrating, eye brow raising, hair pulling, nail biting, mind bending and exhausting activity in the world.

Being a mother is also the sweetest, most loving, fulfilling, exhilarating, heart pounding, caring and most rewarding activity in the world.

Mother's you are truly special!

Moses was a remarkable person and one of the greatest servant leaders in the history of the world.

Moses overcame danger, physical weakness, anger, murder, impatience, disappointment, challenges to his leadership, threats to his life, and many other types of adversity— **to accomplish the plans God had for him.**

God is always at work raising up the next generation of leaders to accomplish His work and advance His Kingdom on the earth!

It was not by accident that Moses became the greatest prophet to live in Israel.

Much of what Moses was able to accomplish can be attributed to his mother's influence on his life.

Three observations from Jochebed's example that help mothers and parents raise their children.

Raising up the next generation to advance His Kingdom on the earth is possible when we:

Recognize the Potential in our Children

Protect our Children from the World that wants to exploit and destroy them

Prepare our Children for the future they are certain to face

Raising up the next generation to accomplish God's Work and advance His Kingdom on the earth is possible when we:

1. Recognize the Potential in our Children v.2

The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son; when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. CSB

The KJV says, “when she saw him that he was a **goodly child**”

The word translated “**goodly**” is the Hebrew word “**tob**” an adjective describing Moses as a child— Pleasant to the higher nature, excellent, virtuous, beneficial, valuable —child.

Psalm 127:3 “Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord, offspring, a reward.” CSB

Isaiah 43:7 “Everyone who bears my name and is created for my glory. I have formed them; indeed, I have made them.” CSB

Because we are “**Born Beautiful**” God has purpose and plans for our life!

God knows the potential of every child, He is calling us as parents and as a church to recognize their gifts and train them to be the best and most Godly version of themselves!

Words have the power to shape a life. We've all heard the lie, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." Entire lives are shaped by the words of a few. Fortunately, those same lives can be reshaped by the right words at the right time.

The following is an excerpt from a speech by Elijah E. Cummings, Maryland's 7th District representative, delivered at Howard University, for the 2000 Education Leadership Summit, December 4, 2000.

This morning, as I drove through the early-morning, South Baltimore traffic toward I-95 and Washington, I passed near the elementary school that I attended nearly 40 years ago. I spent most of my elementary school training as an unhappy member of what then was called the 3rd group—what we call today special education.

To this day, I remember the cold, incredulous, rejecting words of my 6th grade school counselor. He heard my dreams and ridiculed me by saying "You want to be a lawyer? Who do you think you are?"

When I think back to that time, I do something I have done every morning of my adult life. I thank God for the wonderful adults who gave me my head start in life: I Thank God for Mr. Hollis Posey, the sixth grade teacher who listened to my dreams, who believed in my potential as a human being, and who taught me to my strengths, not my limitations. And I thank God for my parents, who convinced me that I could become whatever I decided to be.

I made it out of the 3rd group. I graduated second in my class from Baltimore City College High School. I became a Phi Beta Kappa at Howard University. I became a lawyer at the University of Maryland. I was elected to public office and rose to the position of speaker pro tem of the Maryland House of Delegates, and today I serve the people of Baltimore as a member of the Congress of the United States of America.

I survived and succeeded because of positive parental involvement, and because of Mr. Hollis Posey's belief in me, because he taught to my strengths and helped me learn and achieve in my own way. **We must believe in our children. We must give them the opportunity to develop their unique and diverse abilities.**

Citation: <http://www.house.gov/cummings/speech/sp120400.htm>

Raising up the next generation requires: Recognizing the potential in our children.

Raising up the next generation to accomplish God's Work and advance His Kingdom on the earth is possible when we:

Protect our Children from the World that wants to exploit and destroy them vv.3-7

But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with asphalt and pitch. She placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. ⁴Then his sister stood at a distance in order to see what would happen to him. ⁵Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe at the Nile while her servant girls walked along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds, sent her slave girl, took it, ⁶opened it, and saw him, the child—and there he was, a little boy, crying. She felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew boys." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a Hebrew woman who is nursing to nurse the boy for you?" CSB

During the time Moses was born there was a command from Pharaoh the leader of Egypt— **Exodus 1:22** "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live." CSB

One of the greatest needs our children have is to be PROTECTED so they can live a fulfilled, God honoring life without significant emotional, mental, spiritual or physical baggage!

Parents: DO NOT CAVE TO THE CULTURE WE LIVE IN— WE MUST RAISE OUR CHILDREN TO CREATE A NEW AND BETTER ONE!

Jochebed the mother of Moses was not going to let the rules and norms of the day destroy her son!

The greatest need for our children is not be happy all the time— we create self-centered humans who believe the world exists to make them happy all the time.

The greatest need for our children is not have everything they want— we create greedy and selfish humans who think the world exists to give them every thing they want.

**Do you want lessons for parenting on what and what not to do?
Spend an hour at the toy section in Walmart?**

The greatest need for our children is not be the best, the greatest, the most gifted or admired.

In the days we are living in— we are not being forced to throw our baby boys into the Nile river, however, the world is coming after our children to confuse them, to distort their view of reality, and to conform them to the culture of a troubled and broken world.

Two principles to practice that will help us protect our children:

Prayer— Children need prayer

I John 5:14-15 “This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” CSB

Action— Children need protection

God allowed Jochebed to see the potential in her son and she did everything she could to make sure— when the time came for her to give her son up— she could place her son in the dangerous waters of the Nile and her son would safe.

Raising up the next generation requires: Recognizing the Potential in our Children, Protecting our children.

Raising up the next generation to accomplish God's Work and advance His Kingdom on the earth is possible when we:

**Prepare our Children for the future they are certain to face
vv.8-10**

“Go,” Pharaoh’s daughter told her. So the girl went and called the boy’s mother. ⁹Then Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages.” So the woman took the boy and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.” CSB

In his book *Revolutionary Parenting*, George Barna says there are three dominant approaches to parenting in the United States. Parenting by default is what Barna terms the path of least resistance. This approach is influenced by cultural norms and traditions. The objective is to keep everyone as happy as possible so the parents can still enjoy the other prioritized aspects of their lives.

Trial-and-error parenting is based on the notion that every parent is an amateur at raising children. There are no absolute guidelines to follow, so the best that parents can do is experiment, observe outcomes, and improve upon their successes and failures. In this incremental approach, the goals of parenting are to continually perform better than most other parents. Barna found that a more revolutionary approach to parenting was the least common approach. **Revolutionary parenting takes God's words on life and family at face value and seeks to apply them faithfully and consistently.**

Perhaps the most startling difference in these approaches to parenting has to do with the desired outcomes. "Parenting by default and trial-and-error are both approaches that enable parents to raise their children without the effort of defining their life," Barna explained. "Revolutionary parenting, which is based on one's faith in God, makes parenting a life priority. Those who engage in revolutionary parenting define success as intentionally facilitating faith-based transformation in the lives of their children, rather than simply accepting the aging and survival of the child as a satisfactory result." Citation: Barna Update, www.barna.org (4-9-07)

Preparing our children for the future they must certainly face involves:

Training—

Proverbs 22:6 “Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it.” CSB

Colossians 3:20-21 “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they won’t become discouraged.” CSB

Equipping—

Proverbs 4:1-5 “Listen, sons, to a father’s discipline, and pay attention so that you may gain understanding, ² for I am giving you good instruction. Don’t abandon my teaching. ³ When I was a son with my father, tender and precious to my mother, ⁴ he taught me and said, “Your heart must hold on to my words. Keep my commands and live. ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding; don’t forget or turn away from the words from my mouth.” CSB

Discipline—

Proverbs 3:11-12 “Do not despise the Lord’s instruction, my son, and do not loathe his discipline; ¹² for the Lord disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.” CSB

Proverbs 19:18 “Discipline your son while there is hope; don’t set your heart on being the cause of his death.” CSB

Seven Rules of Effective Discipline for Children

1. **Commitment** to the principle of Discipline

Proverbs 23:13-14 “Don’t withhold discipline from a youth; if you punish him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴ Punish him with a rod,

and you will rescue his life from Sheol.” CSB

The rod was used as an instrument of correction not abuse.

Rods were used by shepherds, to keep predators away and keep the sheep on the right path and from being tangled in bushes. Rods were not used to abuse or mistreat the sheep through beating.

2. **Communication**— This is why we practice Discipline— We love you and want the best for you.

3. **Clarity**— This is why you are being disciplined.

4. **Consistency**— lack of consistency in discipline leads to confusion, frustration and anger.

5. **Discipline in Love not Anger**— We can say the best things in love and the worst things in anger.

A child will never be physically abused or mistreated in love.

6. **Discipline that is appropriate for the misbehavior**

7. **Words of love, forgiveness and affirmation**

Remember this—

Sometimes the worst and lowest moments of our lives lead us to the greatest and most significant moments of our lives. The same principle applies to our children and grandchildren . . . be patient God is always working to raise up the next generation!