

Instafam

Instafam: Part 3

Small Group Questions: #ShapingTheArrow

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Read

2 Timothy 3:15; Psalm 127: 4; Ephesians 6:1–3; Proverbs 25:28; Romans 2:21–23; and Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Reflect

We often compare our everyday lives to other people's highlights. But most of life happens in between the highlights—including raising children to follow God and develop a firm faith. Psalm 127:4 says children are like arrows in the hand of a warrior. They are valuable assets, shaped by the everyday decisions we make and how we treat them. How could you better focus on helping them make a difference for God right now and in the future?

Pastor Josh Surratt highlights three ways to help shape the arrows that are our children:

1. Start now.
 - a. Teach them the benefits of obedience.
 - i. What is your definition of obedience? Listening the first time...or...?
 - ii. What areas of obedience could be improved in your children?
 - b. Teach them how to get self-control.
 - i. Have you identified your own emotional hot buttons? Do you see the same ones in your children?
 - ii. What steps could you pre-determine to take when those emotional hot buttons are pressed? For you and for them.
2. Live consistently.
 - a. Is there an area of your life where you're not as obedient as you'd like your children to think you are? Explain.
 - b. What next step can you take to remedy that disobedience?
 - c. What are they learning from you about authority? About finances? About relationships? About God?
 - d. As you show your way by living your way, how have your children responded?
3. Look for teachable moments.
 - a. How willing are you to be open about your own failures and weaknesses?
 - i. Have you struggled with the balance between being the "strong" parent who can do no wrong, and a parent who is "real"?
 1. What have been the results?
 - ii. What might be holding you back?
 - b. Are you going through a difficult time with your children? Explain.
 - i. Have you reached out to someone for prayer and support? Maybe for similar experience and wisdom?
 - c. Think of your own parents. What did they do right? What could've been improved?
 - d. Is there something specific that your parents said or did that really sticks in your memory...and you know had a major impact in shaping you?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?