

**“Setting Their Hope in God”:**  
*A Vision for Discipling the Next Generation*  
*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Israel cast a compelling vision for discipling the next generation in God’s law - how much greater the church’s trust with God’s gospel**

\*So...

1. Resolve to disciple the next generation (vv.1-4)

2. Remember your place in the midst of the mission (vv.5-7a)

3. Renounce the seeds of rebellion that dwell within (vv.7b-66)

4. Rejoice in the Good Shepherd - great David’s greater Son (vv.67-72)

**Community Group Study Guide**  
For the Week of August 29<sup>th</sup> - September 4<sup>th</sup>

***This week, we have the privilege to connect this past summer's sermon series on prayer with this weekend's sermon on discipling the next generation. Drawing on the wisdom of William Scribner's powerful book An Appeal to Parents to Pray Continually for the Welfare and Salvation of Their Children<sup>1</sup>, we're going to consider 15 exhortations to parents to pray for their children. Study and discuss Scribner's counsel in your family or with your community group. If you don't have any biological or legal children of your own, then take this as an opportunity to reflect on what it might look like to pray more effectively for those you mentor, disciple, or counsel. Finally, this is also excellent biblical advice as we look to pray for our 'Lists of 5'.***

**An Appeal to Parents to Pray Continually for the Welfare and Salvation of Their Children (1873)**  
**By William Scribner**  
(edited by Phil Roberts & Andrew Case)

***Praying for Your Children's Salvation - You should pray for your children's conversion because:***

1. Their salvation is so great a prize that it is worth all the pains which your prayer to secure it for them may cost you.

*The fact that their souls are precious beyond all thought, that the loss of their souls would be inconceivably dreadful, that eternal life would be an infinite gain to them, should stir you up to offer constant requests on their behalf.*

2. Few will pray for them if you do not.
3. No one else can pray for them as you do.

*The genuine love you have for your children, the tenderness you feel for them, and your knowledge of their makeup, needs, and problems, qualify you to plead with God on their behalf with an urgency and earnestness which can take no refusal.*

4. Your omitting to do so will be perilous to them and to you.
5. You will find it easier to perform other parental duties, which God has ordained as a means for their salvation.

*In giving attention to instruction and discipline, do not neglect prayer!*

6. Prayer alone can call into exercise that divine power on their behalf, which is absolutely necessary in order that the prayers which you may employ for their salvation may not be used in vain.

---

<sup>1</sup> Taken from Andrew Case, *Setting Their Hope in God: Biblical Intercession for Your Children*. Copyright 2010 (Andrew Case). For a free PDF of the book, visit <http://hismagnificence.com/>.

*Only God's mighty power can effect the great change necessary, raising them to life from a state of spiritual death. Your child is absolutely dependent upon the influences of God's all-powerful Spirit. Though you persevere in the use of means, without the Spirit it will be in vain. Nothing but believing prayer can secure His power to effect the change.*

7. By their salvation, granted in answer to your prayers, your Saviour will be glorified.

*Not merely the salvation of your children, but the glory of your dear Saviour in their salvation, should impel you to pray for them. This motive should be stronger than any other which can influence you to seek their salvation.*

***Praying for Your Children's Welfare*** - Do not consider only your children's salvation but pray also for your children's welfare because:

1. You may then expect, as a result of your prayers, that the power of God will counteract in some measure the evil you have done them.
2. There will be critical periods in their lives when, without your incessant prayers, they may be left to act most unwisely, if not disastrously.
3. It will lead you to a better understanding of them.
4. It will increase your holy desires for them.
5. No other means will be so effectual in enabling you to overcome the difficulty you experience in talking with them on religious subjects.
6. You will thereby secure for them God's aid in the efforts they may make to yield to you in obedience.
7. Other parents seeing your example, may be led to imitate you.
8. They will often, should they continue in the world, have their times of need when the power of God alone can avail to help them.

*In closing, never approach the throne of grace with your own wants without remembering your children's. They are no less helpless and needy than you. Let us resolve that we will give ourselves more intently to the work of interceding for our children. Whether or not we pray for our offspring will decide what our distant descendants are to be, and what kind of influence they will exert. Surely our fervent prayers for God's blessing on our children would be offered without ceasing were we able to fully comprehend the far-reaching results of such prayers.*