

## Teach the Word

*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.—Deuteronomy 6:6*

A few months ago, I stood in the cemetery by my father's marker and considered many things about my dad. Even though he was an engineer by profession, I remember him as a teacher. I think of one evening when I was in the third grade and I was frustrated because I had to write an informational paper on salt and I did not know where to begin. My dad took the encyclopedia that night and helped me decide what I should write. As I reminisce about the things he taught me, I include flying a kite, riding a bike, waterskiing, woodworking, electrical wiring, plumbing, driving a car, baking, and an abundance of other things. There is one thing that was missing.

My father did not accept Christ until he was 80 years old. Even though he taught me many things about life, he never taught me the scripture. Since this one thing was lacking, I believe it is important to mention it to fathers today.

God directs you to teach your children the Bible. He does not say when it is convenient or on Christmas and Easter. Deuteronomy indicates that you are to do it DILIGENTLY. Webster's Dictionary defines diligent as "steady, earnest, and energetic effort." That sounds like a father is to put work into rightly presenting the word of God. It is to be thoughtful and consistent. A child should know what the Bible says not just from attending church but from the daily teaching in his home.

In addition to this consistent and well planned presentation of scripture, the father in the home should permeate the day to day conversation with Biblical principles. As he talks and walks with his children, as he puts them to bed and gets them up in the morning, he is to direct their thoughts to God.