



Sermon Discussion Guide

Nov. 22 & 23, 2025

"How Do We Influence Kids for Good?"

[Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)

In this series, we explore how faith intersects with the most important relationships in our lives: marriage, family, and friendships. Each week we'll look at how God's design, grace, and presence bring healing and hope to our closest connections, even in a broken world. Join us as we learn what it means to keep Christ at the center of every relationship.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#) – **"A Call for Wholehearted Commitment"**

- In your everyday rhythm, where do you find it easiest to bring God into the conversation and where does it almost never happen?
- When you think about "write them on your hands and foreheads" and "doorposts," what are the modern equivalents (routines, spaces, habits) that quietly shape what you or your kids care about most?
- How have phones and busy calendars functioned like "other gods" that compete with the wholehearted love Deuteronomy describes?
- Pastor Mike said Hope wants to "unapologetically compete for the hearts of new generations." What is one way you could help?

Read [Psalms 145:4-7](#) – **"A Psalm of Praise of David"**

- Psalm 145 describes faith being passed from one generation to the next. When you think about the kids or teens you influence, what are you already doing that helps them see God's goodness? Where do you struggle?
- Pastor Mike highlighted alarming trends in anxiety and depression. When kids see God's "mighty acts" in real life (answered prayer, community, compassion), how do you think that shapes their mental health differently than social media does?
- What is one way you could point a young person to God's strength rather than their own performance or popularity?
- How might gratitude be a way of "proclaiming God's power" to kids who feel overwhelmed by expectations?

Read [2 Timothy 1:5-7](#) – **"Encouragement to be Faithful"**

- Paul highlights Timothy's sincere faith passed down through his grandmother and mother. Who helped plant faith in you?
- Timothy needed encouragement to "fan into flame" the gift God gave him. Where do you see gifts, passion, or potential in the children or teens you influence? How can you name those gifts out loud so they know what you see in them?
- God doesn't give a spirit of fear. How do you see fear, anxiety, or insecurity affecting the next generation right now?
- What would it look like to help a child feel seen and supported when they face those pressures?

Read [Ephesians 6:4](#) – **"Children and Parents"**

- How can loving guidance bring security instead of control? Who helped give you that grounding when you were young?
- Pastor Mike said kids don't need perfect parents; just present ones. What are ways adults unintentionally "provoke" kids through pressure, comparison, or unrealistic expectations? How might encouragement replace criticism in one relationship this week?
- When you hear "bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord," what positive habits come to mind?
- Pastor Mike challenged us to model faith, not just talk about it. What part of your faith would kids see clearly if they watched your life for a week? What part might confuse them? What's one step you can take so they see Jesus more clearly in you?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Take one step.** Choose one kid you influence (a child, grandchild, student, neighbor, etc.) and intentionally speak a truth about who they are in God's eyes this week—something affirming, biblical, and personal.
- **Start a rhythm.** Incorporate a simple, repeatable faith practice into daily life (a bedtime prayer, a daily Bible story, or a short prayer in the car on the way to school), and commit to doing it consistently this week.
- **Model what matters most.** Identify one area where your current priorities may be modeling worldly success more than faith in Christ. Make a change, such as adjusting schedules, reducing distractions, or serving together, so kids see faith shaping real life.