

Storybook Endings: Don't be that Parent!

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NIV) – The Biblical Shema

¹ These are the **commands, decrees and laws** the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,

² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear (revere) the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and **so that you may enjoy long life.**

³ Hear, Israel, **and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you** and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

⁶ These commandments that I give you today **are to be on your hearts.**

⁷ **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

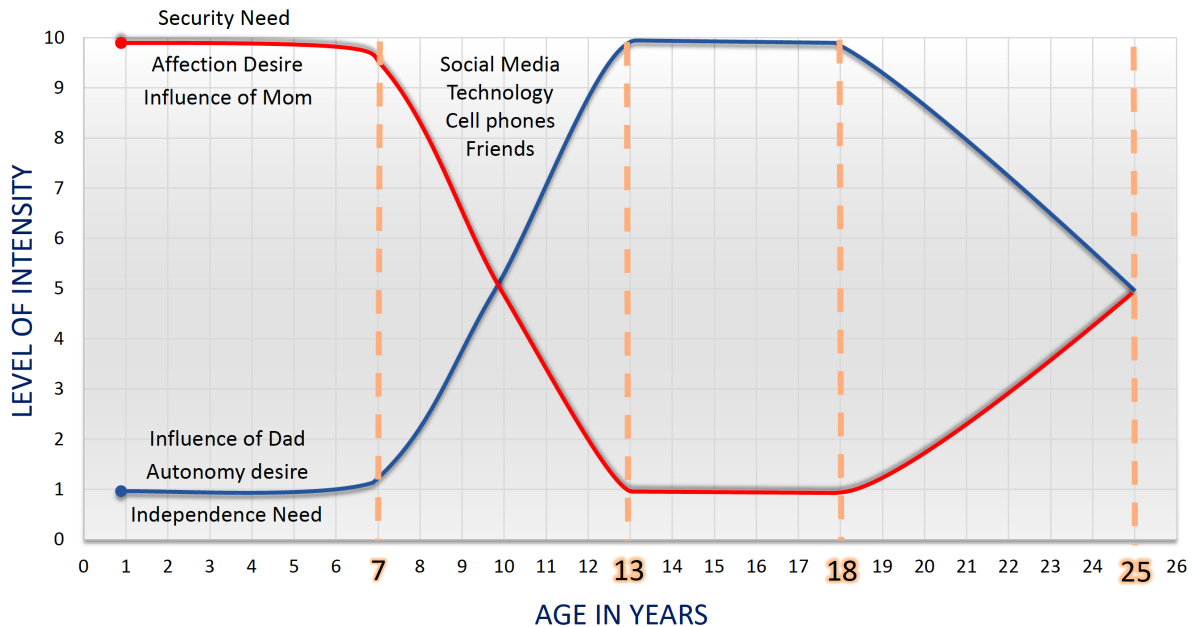
- 1. Parental influence flows in three observances. (The Jewish model: Parents ... and Grandparents)**
 - Commands = morals (not merely a list of don't, more importantly a compelling list of do's)
 - Decrees = wisdom (applications of truth in a timely manner)
 - Laws = natural and spiritual laws (understanding of how things work)
 - A Key to adoption: In the process – work to teach the reason(s) why these things are true.
- 2. When God's morals, wisdom and natural truths are obeyed, that obedience produces fruit.**
 - This is why non-believing people can have the same blessings as believing families.
 - When believers or non-believers teach their children the power of hard work, coupled with smart thinking, coupled with delayed gratification, coupled with determination, grit and endurance, those kids will most often lack for nothing as adults.
 - You can teach your children to be impeccably moral, but if you don't couple that with the wisdom of God and a respect for God's natural laws, then your children might be moral, but they will be lacking the tools necessary to make a great life in the world as adults.
- 3. Everything begins with the truth that God is one – He is the source and the sum of all that is true.**
 - Knowing God begins with acknowledging Him as the source of everything that is good.
 - The Shema acknowledges this thought: God is Sovereign.
 - **When we break God's laws, the repercussions break us.**
- 4. It must move from your head to your heart for them to believe it.**
- 5. Impress God's morals, decrees, and laws on your family into everyday normal life.**

Two Practical Ways to be that Parent who honors the Shema ("the Hear")

- **Proverbs 22:6 – God's Participation with Parents**
"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he grows older he will not abandon it."
- **Luke 2:52 – A Prayer that will serve you and your family well**
"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

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Life as a kid perceives it (without knowing it or owning up to it)¹



- **A Game Plan for Parenting**
 - Ages 0-5: Instilling Self-Disciplines and a Moral Warehouse
 - Ages 6-10: Training in life/interpersonal skills and the application of the Moral Warehouse
 - Ages 10-13/15: Coaching them as they grow as social beings and conceptual thinkers
 - Ages 13/15+: Coaching, Consulting and Friendship
- **Goals of our Parenting (Commands, Decrees, Laws turn into Character, Competence, Confidence)**
 - Know Jesus Christ personally for themselves (the law of attraction)
 - Build a healthy identity and self-worth
 - To help them become self-motivated
 - To help them learn delayed gratification
 - Impart interpersonal, social, emotional, mental, and life skills for them to make it as adults
 - Note: We used sports, being in nature, academics, games, serving others, travel, material world self-governance and cross-cultural mission trips as vehicles to deliver values.
- **Guidelines in our parenting**
 - Guard your kid's innocence, but at the same time don't live in fear and shelter them.
 - Be honest with them. Say and do things like "Let's think this out together."
 - Be appropriately affectionate in your marriage in front of them.
 - Be kind and be firm. They are not mutually exclusive.
 - Training happens best in non-conflict moments. (Interrupt rule)
 - We limited screen time, video games and the imitation world for self-governance.
 - "whaa ... you'll thank me later when your cerebral stem is fully developed"
 - Let them see the world for what it is, but don't let the world invade their innocence.
 - Pray the Luke 2:52 blessing and protection of God over them constantly. (daily)

¹ Jerry S.