

Chapter 4: Gather Broken Branches

Dig Deeper:

Passage: Read Deuteronomy 6:6

"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart."

The commissioning—teaching our children to live by the Word:

The New Testament has basically two different translations for “word”:

Rhema refers to a word that is spoken and means “an utterance.” The *logos* and the *rhema* words of God work together to bring life and vitality (passion) to a believer. We must teach our children the written word as well as how to distinguish the spoken word of God in their lives, as He directs them in their daily choices and assignments. The Bible teaches that the word of God is “living and active (Heb. 4:12),” which means that there is nothing stuffy, irrelevant, or stagnant about it. In fact, I’m learning that if you want to learn the heart of God through His word, you really have to stay on the move!

Logos often refers to the written word of God (Luke 8:11; 1 Tim. 2:15; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Peter 2:2) but is also often used as a spoken word or saying. *Logos* also refers to Jesus, the living “Word made flesh” (John 1:1, 14). Why was Jesus referred to as “the word”? Check out this exciting lesson from my *Genesis Commentary* (offered on the One Million Arrows Website):

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Check out the Hebrew picture language of this verse, reading from **right to left**:

7	6	5	4	3	2	1
הָאָרֶץ	וְאֵת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	אֵת	אֱלֹהִים	בָּרָא	בְּרֵאשִׁית
the earth	and	the heavens	?	God	created	in the beginning

Word number three is “Elohim” which is the “majestic plural” form of God (meaning that He is absolute, preeminent, most high). “Majestic plural” does not mean that the word is numerically plural (Gods) because the verb tense is single (“He created”). In Hebrew language this means that value or weight is added to the subject, in this case, God. The word “god” basically means “judge” or “ruler” according to early Hebrew teaching (i.e. Ex. 22:8-9 uses the word “elohim” for “judges” but it is in plural form with the plural verb in agreement). In fact, as we will cover later, the Bible even refers to human rulers as gods (Ex. 7:1, Jud. 5:8, Ps. 82:6-7). When Yahweh said, “There is no other God besides me,” He used the word, “Elohim.” In other words, there may be other “gods” or human rulers and judges, but there are no other “supreme, majestic rulers.”

When the Hebrew translators worked on Genesis 1:1, they did not know how to translate word number four. This word consists of two Hebrew letters, the Aleph and the Tav, in order. Here are the literal and symbolic meanings in the Hebrew picture language for these two words:

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Aleph:	Literal=ox, bull	symbolic=strength, leader
Tav:	Literal=a sign, a cross	symbolic=covenant, seal

The Aleph and the Tav are the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

In Revelation 1:8, 21:6, and 22:13, Jesus said, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* When Jesus actually spoke these words, He spoke in His native tongue, Aramaic. Aramaic uses the same alphabet as the Hebrew alphabet, so the words He spoke were, *“I am the Aleph and the Tav,”* which are the first and the last letters of the alphabet, and the beginning and the end.

In John chapter 1, we find a parallel passage to Genesis 1 that finally explains the unknown Word (for four centuries) to the Jews! John is a witness to the Messiah, preparing the way. John 1:1-3 says, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.* Looking at the Hebrew above, we see the Aleph and the Tav, the first and the last, all in one word. We see God in the beginning, creating the Word, then together creating the heavens and the earth. Isn't that fascinating? You can see a more in-depth explanation on youtube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bx2QUk0t34U&feature=player_embedded

John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Also, since Jesus is the Aleph Tav, He is also represented in the picture language as the strong leader (ox, bull), and as the covenant and seal in the sign of a cross! In the ancient Hebrew picture language (different than what you see above), the Tav is in the shape of a cross.

Read John 6:31-35. To what is Jesus compared?

There are many verses that confirm the necessity of the daily word (manna) in sustaining us—keeping our spirits alive and energized—on our journey from Egypt to the Promised Land! This word can come in the form of reading the Bible or just spending regular time with Jesus so we learn to hear His voice.

Group Interaction:

- What shortcuts are we tempted to take in the raising of our children in today's world and why?
- Have you relied too heavily on others to spiritually train your children? If so, how has it affected them to this point?
- What are some of the dangers you have become aware of around your children by things they have communicated to you from their daily experiences?

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- According to the statistics, 75% of children leave their faith by their 2nd year of college (cited in the book). What specific things must we do to ward off that possibility for our own children?
- How can you provide ample opportunities for your children to serve with their gifts?
- Do you see sufficient evidence in your children of their faith developing into their own? If so, share these specific evidences with the group for greater understanding of what it might look like.

Bring it Home:

Jesus taught His disciples to PRAY...

Day 1: Read Matt. 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven..."

Day 2: Read Matt. 6:5-6

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

Day 3: Read Matt. 6:7-8

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the [foreigners] do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Day 4: Read Matt. 6:9-13

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'"

Day 5: Read Matt. 14:23

After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

Day 6: Read Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

Day 7: Read Matt. 7:7-11

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"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"