

## I. INTRO

- A. It's possible that we're all living under the influence of something or someone
- What shapes one generation... often gets passed to the next

## II. GENERATION SHAPERS

- A. Every generation has been shaped by something
- Wars or national crises
  - COVID-19
  - Technology and Media
  - The family structure itself
- B. Those things may shape us, but they were never meant to define us

## III. THE FIRST PLACE OF INFLUENCE

- A. First things first
- Before there were classrooms, there was a home, a family

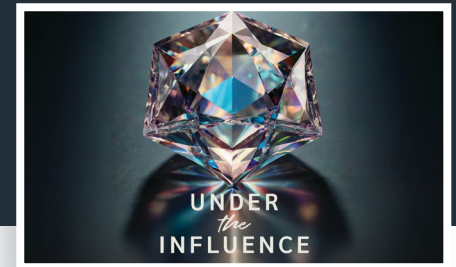
**Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV) "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

- Formation happens in the ordinary moments of life
- **What is normal in your home becomes normal in their life**
- Children do not just listen to what is said
  - They absorb what is lived
  - They watch and observe how priorities are set
  - They notice what brings joy, what creates stress, and what is consistently valued

- B. A promise wrapped in a warning

**Deuteronomy 6:10-12 (NKJV) "So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—*then* beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

- Joshua takes them into the promised land



**Judges 2:7 (NLT)** And the Israelites served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him—those who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

**Judges 2:10 (NLT)** After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel.

- The first generation had experience with God
- The next generation had information about God—but not relationship
- Over time: they forgot, drifted, they followed the culture around them

**Faith that is lived in one generation, becomes faith that is passed to the next generation.**

**C. The Competing Influence of Culture**

- If you do not decide who or what will influence your life, there's a good chance that something else already is

**Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- The home is the first place of influence, but it is not meant to stand alone, the church is a reinforcement of what God intends to do through it
- **The Next Gen ministry at Joy is committed to raising a generation that:**
  - Honors the Word of God
  - Knows the Voice of God
  - Walks in the Power of the Spirit of God
  - Serves with Joy
  - Leads with Courage

**D. The home is the first place of influence and home is where your mom is**

- The influence of a mother is rarely confined to a moment. It is spread across years—woven into daily routines, quiet sacrifices, and repeated acts of care and faithfulness
- **We are a family church, teaching people to reach their world**

If we do not lead the influence, we will follow it. And the next generation will be shaped, not by what we intended, but by whatever spoke the loudest.

- Who is shaping you—and who are you shaping?

**Psalms 145:4-6 (NLT)** Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.