

Welcome to The Narrow Porch



A Journey of Biblical Discipleship

Come. There's a seat waiting for you.

Life moves quickly.

The week has been full of responsibilities, victories, disappointments, questions, and moments only you and the Lord know about.

Before another week begins, let's slow down together.

Find a quiet place.

Open your Bible.

Ask the Lord to teach you.

This isn't another sermon, and it isn't meant to replace the gathering of God's people in the local church. It's simply an invitation to spend time together each Sunday evening, opening God's Word and allowing it to shape our hearts as disciples of Jesus Christ.

For the next fifty-two weeks, we'll walk a journey of biblical discipleship together.

Not by following opinions.

Not by chasing popular ideas.

But by following Christ through His Word.

Our commitment is simple:

God-centered. Scripture-led.

Every lesson will begin with Scripture and allow God's Word to lead the conversation. We won't build lessons around our ideas; we'll allow the Bible to shape our understanding, challenge our hearts, and direct our steps.

Whether you're joining us for the first time or walking beside us every week, I'm grateful you're here.

So...

Let's begin.

Porch Sunday I

Before You Could Choose

God's Design for the Earliest Years

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

Pull Up a Chair

If you're joining us for the first time, I'm glad you're here.

For the next fifty-two Sundays, we're going to walk through the life of a believer—not by following someone's opinion, but by opening God's Word together and allowing it to guide every step of the journey.

This isn't a race through the Bible, nor is it a collection of motivational thoughts. It's an invitation to slow down, ask honest questions, and discover what God says about walking with Him from the earliest days of life until the day we stand in His presence.

So before we begin...

Come. There's a seat waiting for you.

Open your Bible.

Ask the Lord to teach you.

Then let's begin where every story should begin—not with ourselves, but with God.

Open God's Word

Before you took your first breath, God already was.

Before anyone knew your name, He was faithful.

Before your parents held you in their arms, His Word had already spoken about the responsibility of raising children.

Our journey begins, not with what a child can do for God, but with what God has entrusted to parents and families.

Read these passages slowly:

- Deuteronomy 6:4–9
- Psalm 78:1–8
- Proverbs 22:6
- Ephesians 6:4
- 2 Timothy 3:14–15

As you read, look for one repeated truth:

Who is responsible for placing God's Word before a child?

Walking Through the Word

A newborn enters this world completely dependent upon the care God has provided through others.

A newborn cannot choose right from wrong.

A newborn cannot understand the gospel.

A newborn cannot open a Bible or kneel in prayer.

God designed those early years to be filled with people who would care for that child, love that child, protect that child, and, most importantly, teach that child about the Lord.

Before we begin discussing these passages, remember the question we asked earlier:

Who is responsible for placing God's Word before a child?

Let's allow Scripture to answer that question.

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (CSB)

Moses tells God's people:

"Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Notice where God begins.

He doesn't begin with the child.

He begins with the parent.

God never intended His Word to become something we hear only once each week. He pictured parents speaking about Him around the table, while traveling, before bedtime, and at the beginning of every new day. In God's design, discipleship was never meant to be an event. It was meant to become a way of life.

Psalms 78:1–8 (CSB)

The psalmist continues the same heartbeat:

"...so that a future generation—children yet to be born—might know. They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands."

God has always worked through generations.

Every generation receives the privilege of telling the next generation about His faithfulness. The goal isn't simply passing along family traditions. The goal is that children would place their hope in God, remember His mighty works, and walk in His ways.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

Solomon writes:

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

This proverb reminds us that the early years matter.

The habits we encourage, the truths we teach, and the example we live will leave lasting impressions. While every person must one day respond to God personally, Scripture calls parents to faithfully guide their children toward wisdom from the very beginning.

Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)

Paul writes:

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Notice that Paul doesn't simply warn fathers about what not to do. He gives them a positive responsibility.

Children are not merely to be corrected.

They are to be lovingly nurtured, instructed, and pointed toward the Lord through both words and example.

2 Timothy 3:14–15 (NKJV)

Finally, Paul reminds Timothy:

"...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Timothy didn't suddenly discover God's Word as an adult.

Faithful people invested in him during his earliest years. God used their faithfulness to prepare him for the life and ministry that lay ahead.

Notice something important.

None of these passages promise that a child will be saved simply because they were raised in a Christian home.

The Bible never teaches inherited faith.

Parents can teach.

Grandparents can pray.

The church can encourage.

Faithful believers can influence.

But only God can bring new life to the heart.

Every child must one day personally respond to God's call.

Until that day comes, God lovingly entrusts parents, families, and His people with the privilege of placing His Word before the next generation.

That is where our journey begins.

Not with what children can do for God.

But with what God has entrusted to those who walk before them.

Looking Down the Narrow Path

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, mentor, Sunday school teacher, or simply an older believer, God has given you opportunities to influence someone younger than you.

The question is not whether you have all the answers.

The question is whether you are faithfully pointing others to the One who does.

Porch Reflection

- Who first placed God's Word before you?
- What examples of faith shaped your earliest years?
- Who has God entrusted to your influence today?
- In what practical ways can you make God's Word part of everyday life in your home?

Porch Prayer

Father,

Thank You for being faithful before we ever knew You.

Thank You for parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, and faithful believers who have passed Your Word from one generation to the next.

Help us never treat children as an interruption to ministry, but as one of the greatest ministries You have entrusted to us.

Give parents wisdom, patience, and steadfastness. Help every home represented here become a place where Your Word is read, spoken, and lived.

And for those who did not grow up hearing Your truth, thank You that Your grace is not limited by our beginnings. You are still calling people to Yourself today.

May the next generation know You because we were faithful to tell them.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Leave a Chair Open

This week, pray for a child.

Encourage a parent.

Read God's Word with someone younger than you.

God often uses ordinary moments of faithfulness to accomplish extraordinary things.

You never know which conversation He will use to begin shaping a life that will one day follow Christ.

Next Sunday, we'll move to the next step in the journey:

The Day You Could Choose—when a young heart begins to understand right and wrong, recognize God's truth, and face the personal responsibility of responding to Him.

-A Porch Believer-

Barry S.

Porch Believer

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