

Placing the Word of God into the Hearts of our Children
By Kim Haney

It was the summer of 2006 when it happened to me. A long dirt road surrounded by walnut and cherry orchards separated our house from the main road, and this was my place to walk each evening. That summer I had been secretly struggling with inner feelings of self-worth, and to help the violin of pity play even louder, I had just read a note from a friend telling me of all the doors of ministry the Lord had opened for her. It was not that I was jealous (all right, maybe a little). I was honestly happy that God was using her, but it shined the spotlight of inadequacy even brighter on my own life. I felt like I wasn't doing anything productive, and to be completely honest with you, I felt trapped. Even worse was what I felt trapped by. I felt so tied down by my kids. I had five young children who literally consumed my life and demanded so much of my time.

Something inside of me kept screaming that I needed to be *out*. I wanted to be out ministering to others, leading, helping others, and doing things "for God" like I saw others my age doing, but I felt so limited by the needs of my five kids. Nobody really knew I was feeling that way, or so I thought.

The California sunsets are so beautiful on summer evenings, but this one I will never forget. During my evening walk, I was about halfway down the road facing our house, when the Lord Jesus spoke so clearly into my spirit. Out of the blue came this question: "Do you really want to please Me?" To say the least, it caught me by surprise. I responded as if I were having a conversation, "Well, of course I want to please you, Lord! I have given you my life. I walk with You everyday. I pray. I do my best to always obey. I witness to others about You. What do You mean?"

Friend, if I have ever heard the voice of the Lord, I heard it that day walking down the dirt road. "Kim, if you truly want to please Me, then look straight ahead." As I looked down the road, I saw my five precious kids playing in the front yard. They were making forts, playing with sticks, and using their imaginations. "I have given you five children. If you truly want to please Me, then *they are your ministry.*" I wish I could tell you that I ran down the road with pure excitement and a new burden. No, I will tell you what I did. I stood there and cried. As the tears ran down my face, my eyes were opened, and I felt so ashamed as the Lord made me take an honest look at what I had labeled "ministry." Underneath that mask was the brutal reality of selfishness and a self-seeking mentality; not a drop of it was God.

That day on the dirt road forever changed my perspective on life. It made me take an honest look at myself, my motives, and who I really was inside. Many things were changed, rearranged, and cancelled in my life. It doesn't really matter what the world thinks about you, what your church thinks about you, what your peers think about you, or even what you think about yourself. All that matters is pleasing Jesus, and many times that includes taking the road that is less recognized. I have learned from the

choices I made that day that doing what the Lord desires always brings much contentment, peace, and fulfillment into one's life. That day on the dirt road, my children became my first and foremost congregation. They became my ministry!

God knew something that I did not. The soil of their hearts was prepared to receive certain spiritual seeds during those younger years, and if that window of opportunity were passed by, the soil would become less receptive with time. I have noticed that around thirteen to fourteen years of age my children have entered new seasons of change in which their wings begin to spread and prepare for flight. This is a natural process, but mothers should be aware of the small window of time God has granted us to plant seeds of doctrine into their spirits.

Jochebed only had Moses during the preschool years. Trust me, I know those are not easy years. Mothers can hardly wait to send those precious babies off to school! Jochebed influenced Moses between the ages of four and six, and what she did with that time made the difference in his life. The doctrinal seeds that were planted into him grew stronger than the pull and allure of the kingdom of Egypt. No matter what may pull and bid for your children's souls, the Word of God you place inside them will "stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). It's a promise!

When God gave me this wake-up call, I didn't really know where to start, so I asked the Lord, "What do I do?" First, He told me to instill the early morning prayer discipline into their lives. I started waking them up twenty minutes earlier. Before getting ready for school, we would pray and go through the Search for Truth II color chart a little each morning. Then in 2009 the Lord prompted me to compile the book *Seeds of Jochebed*, which is designed to help mothers plant seeds of truth in their children through a daily reading. It has been eleven years since that day in 2006. Most of my children are now grown and I am looking back in absolute amazement and gratitude to God for giving me a good, straight talk at the time it mattered most.

Mom, God is with you! You will feel His Spirit and anointing come upon you in your living room because you will become His voice. On that great day when you stand before the throne, every effort you have made will be rewarded. May your family circle stand unbroken in heaven!