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With a new school year coming up and a new teacher being installed today I thought it would be good to share this good educational advice. (Miriam, are you paying attention, here's some free education advice on your installation day ☺).

In a classroom full of kids, if you want them to remember what you have taught them, you need to take smaller chunks of information and give the kids opportunities to repeat those chunks of information (you can use a whole host of activities and questions and discussion to get the kids to repeat the information, the key is the opportunity to repeat intellectually-digestible chunks of information) – because if you do that, the latest studies suggest, you are equipping them to remember the information better.

It's really reemphasizing and strategizing how to put into practice an educational truth as old as Moses, it's education psychology 101, it's an idea so old and well-known that even if you've never studied educational psychology and have no idea what I'm talking about with "chunking" information, you probably use it naturally... *repetitio mater studiorum est*.

In case your Latin is a little rusty: Repetition is the mother of learning.

Teachers and professionals from every area of life have been putting that truth into practice for a very long time.

I wonder how many shots Steph Curry has taken throughout his life so that he can drain the rock from distance on game day.

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If you want to teach something, learn something, remember something, do something really well there is a simple, tried and true method: *repetitio mater studiorum est* – Repetition is the mother of learning.

As I said before, it is a strategy as old as Moses.

Moses, the author of that first lesson from Deuteronomy may not have spoken Latin, but he knew that *repetitio mater studiorum est*.

That first lesson came from a book of the Bible called Deuteronomy, which is Greek for 2nd Law –much of the book of Deuteronomy is simply Moses at the end of his life chunking and repeating laws the Israelites heard 40 years earlier at Mt. Sinai – much of it is a repetition of what you find in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

Not only that but what Pastor Adams just read from Deuteronomy 11 is a chunked repeat of what Moses had already said in Deuteronomy 4.

And then you look at what Deuteronomy 11 actually says and Moses, the father of repetitive learning, wants the repetition to continue – **Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.**

Moses is clearly a fan of *repetitio mater studiorum est*.

And it is important to remember that Moses isn't interested in perfecting your jump shot, helping you learn a new language or helping you perfect a minor medical procedure. Moses is interested in taking this truth – that if you want to teach something, learn something, remember something, do something really well you need to repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat – Moses wants us to take this simple education psychology and put it to work when it comes to our relationship with God.

The reality is that we are already using this amazingly powerful teaching technique in many different areas of life. You are already teaching by repetition on a daily basis, whether you realize it or not you are already teaching yourself, your kids, your students, and your coworkers lessons about life and God.

Have you ever thought of that before? There are a whole bunch of people watching you live your life and the decisions you repeatedly make are teaching lessons – often without you even realizing it.

Allow me to give you some examples...

Dear parents, did you know that your life (the decisions you make, the schedules you follow, the budgets you set, all the things you repeat on a daily, weekly, monthly basis) are teaching your children? Whether you are intentionally teaching them or not doesn't matter – they are learning from you.

If Sunday morning worship is non-negotiable in your family schedule, if it is not even a question, you are going to church every single weekend, do you know what, by repetition your child is learning? My parents love Jesus. Time with Jesus is important.

But what if Sunday *is* negotiable? What if you only go once or twice a month? What if when summer comes and the sports schedules get crazy church kind of falls of the schedule completely until the next school year comes around? Do you know what, by repetition, your child is learning?

And that's just weekly church, what about daily family devotions and prayer? What, by repetition is your family Bible reading time, or lack thereof teaching? What about your budget, what about how you talk about other people in front of your kids? What about the way you treat your spouse, or the waitress at the restaurant?

You, whether you always realize it or not, by this powerful tool of repetition, are teaching your kids on a daily basis how to live, how to talk about other people, how to treat other people, how to use your time and money, what is important and not important, what loving God looks like.

Parents, by sheer repetition you are in a position to have a greater influence on your child and their relationship with God than anyone else on this planet and it's not even close. Moses' challenge to you is clear: in the school of repetition, what are you teaching?

And although Moses is specifically talking to parents here in Deuteronomy 11, the lesson doesn't end with mom and dad.

Husbands, did you know that if you pray out loud with your wife on a daily basis that you are teaching? Did you know the divorce rate of husbands who pray out loud in front of their wives on a daily basis is not 1 in 2 (like the rest of the country). It's 1 in 5000. Husbands and wives, your partner is watching and learning – the decisions you make, the words you say, on a daily basis, through repetition are teaching your partner not only about how to have a relationship with you, but about your relationship with God.

No matter who or where you are, whether you are married or single, parents or empty nesters, young or old, rich or poor, a first year teacher at a Christian school, a nurse, or a truck driver, you have the incredible ability to use the power of repetition to teach the world around you about God – to influence the world around you in a simple yet incredibly powerful way, to draw people closer to God or to weaken their relationship with God.

And our daily, repeated decisions don't just teach the world around us, it affects our own hearts too. It is not just our kids who are missing out on an opportunity to be drawn closer to God if we make Sunday optional and daily devotions sporadic or non-existent.

So Moses wants us to be careful because we are using this powerful teaching technique (*repetitio mater studiorum est*) on a daily basis, whether we realize it or not and because in this world where sin is powerful and the devil is real, we and our children, and the world around us are either being drawn closer to God or enticed away from him.

So, as we begin another school year, as we install a new teacher, we have an opportunity to do some self-reflection, to be reminded of how important it is to make Moses' words and the rest of the Bible a repeated and regular part of our lives.

The reality is that the words of Moses, the words of the Bible can have an amazing impact on our relationship with God.

In the school of Deuteronomy and the Bible you can learn to **love the LORD your God**. By repeatedly reading the Bible you can read about your God's amazing love for you – a love that God repeatedly assures us of God's love even though we repeated fail as parents, and spouses, and disciples of Jesus; a love that ultimately led him to a cross for you. And by repeatedly filling your life with the stories of his love you can fall in love with him.

In the school of Deuteronomy and the Bible you can learn to **keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands**. By repeatedly reading the Bible you can learn what Godly parenting actually looks like, what it means to be a godly spouse, how being a Christian should color every interaction you have.

In the school of Deuteronomy and the Bible you can remember and help the next generation know and remember our God's long history of protecting and providing for his people – by repeatedly filling your life with the stories of the 10 plagues, what happened on the shores of the Red Sea, how God's people were fed for 40 years in the wilderness, what happened with Dathan and Abiram (maybe if you don't remember that story you realize today you've got some work to do – ask me after the service and I'll tell you about it) – by repeatedly filling your life with the stories of God you can learn about a God who will let nothing stop him from saving and protecting his people.

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That is a truth that is beneficial to remember if you are a teacher in a classroom. It is beneficial in your career. It is beneficial if you want to learn Russian. It is even more and eternally beneficial when it comes to your relationship with God and with the next generation's relationship with God.

So friends, remember these words of Moses. Remember the words of your God. Let them fill your life, repeat, repeat, repeat and God promises he will use that repetition to draw us closer to him and our heavenly home.

Amen.

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