

The background of the image is a dark teal color. Overlaid on this background is a faint, semi-transparent image of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a supportive gesture. The hands are positioned behind the text, with some fingers visible at the edges of the frame.

10 Lessons for

# BACK to SCHOOL

# 1. Remember that children are a gift

## ***Psalm 127***

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
the builders labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the guards stand watch in vain.

2 In vain you rise early  
and stay up late,  
toiling for food to eat—  
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

3 Children are a heritage from the Lord,  
offspring a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a  
warrior

are children born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man  
whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame  
when they contend with their  
opponents in court.

## 2. Develop the heart and mind of your children

### ***Deuteronomy 6:1-9***

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

## 2. Develop the heart and mind of your children

### ***Deuteronomy 6:1-9***

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### 3. Embrace that your child is unique *(don't compare them to others)*

#### ***Psalms 139***

13 For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.



### **3. Embrace that your child is unique** ***(don't compare them to others)***

#### ***Psalm 139***

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;

all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

## 4. Teach them to strive for excellence and make room for failure

### ***Colossians 3:23-24***

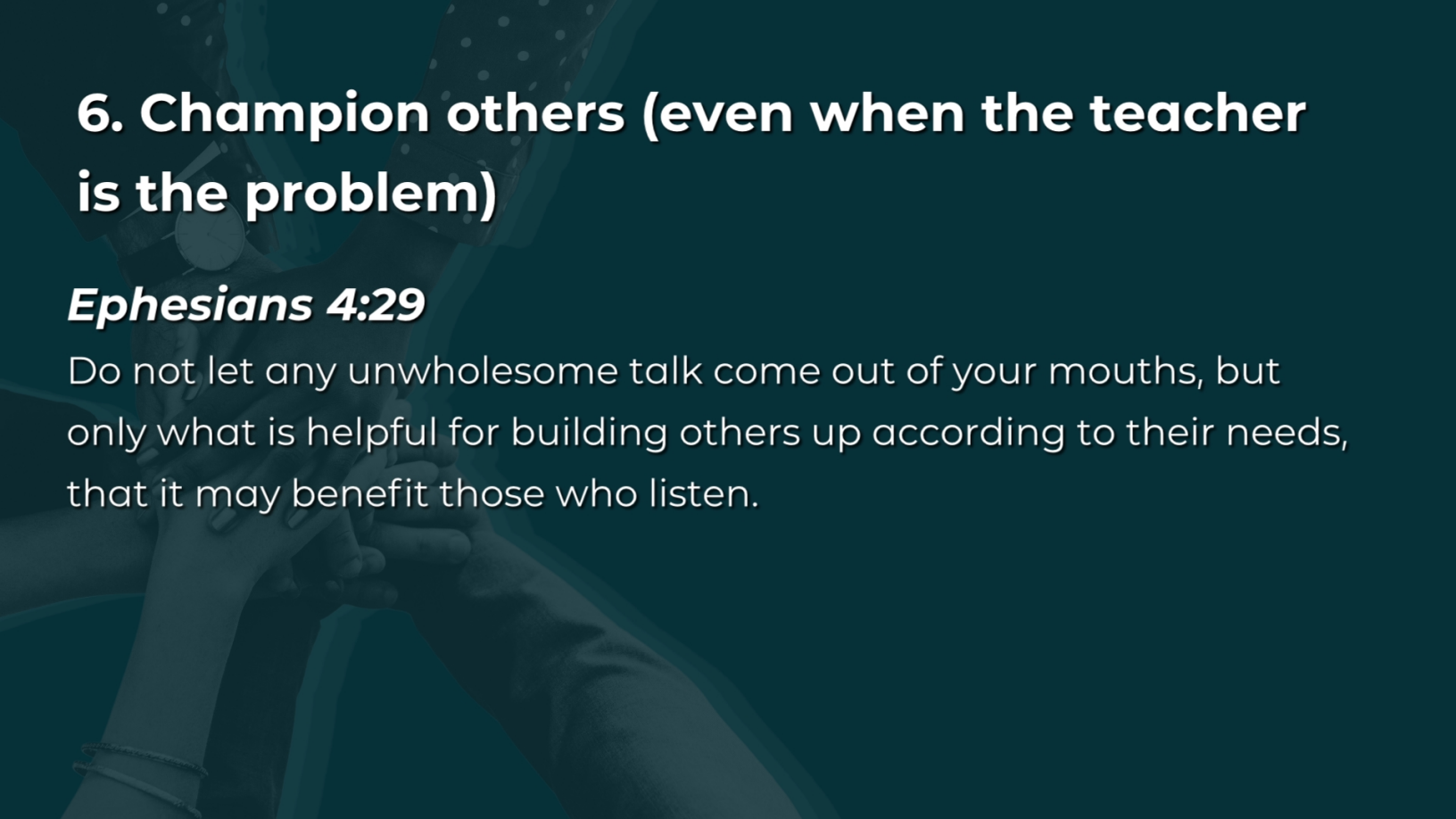
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

## 5. Know what they are learning

### ***2 Corinthians 10:5***

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.





## 6. Champion others (even when the teacher is the problem)

### ***Ephesians 4:29***

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

## **7. Make your home be a place of joy and discipline.**

### ***Psalm 94:19***

When anxiety was great within me,  
your consolation brought me joy.

### ***Hebrews 12:11***

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

## 8. Remember God goes before you.

### ***Exodus 33:1-2***

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' 2 I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

## 9. Know your boundaries.

*(Don't do something you will regret)*

### **Exodus 33**

3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way." 4 When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.' "

## 10. Pray for your children *(and invite people to join you)*

### ***Exodus 33***

6 So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments at Mount Horeb. 7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. 8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.



## 10. Pray for your children *(and invite people to join you)*

### ***Exodus 33***

9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. 10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. 11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.