

JESUS EVERYDAY

GOSPEL INTEGRATION

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 3: FAMILY

Read the Text

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Main Point

When we think of evangelism, our thoughts can often jump ahead to people outside of our home. But the truth is that evangelism starts in our home with the people who know us the most and spend the most amount of time with us. So how do we go about creating a family culture of gospel integration in the home and what does that look like?

As Moses leads the Israelites into a strange, hostile, and idolatrous foreign land, he doesn't give them a pep talk or tell them how ready they are or how strong they are. Instead, He points them to God's word and reminds them of who God is and what He has done. This is an excellent model for parents or anyone in a discipling relationship. **More than we want the younger generation to experience behavior modification or hit all the Christian check-box items, we want whole-hearted worshippers. A generation who treasures Jesus above everything else.**

So how do we do this? Kids and adults alike have so many temptations and distractions vying for their attention, and those things can quickly lead us away from worshipping God and towards idolatry. This has happened since the beginning of creation! If we want to have a gospel-centered home, we have to recognize that we are worshippers living in a land full of idols. These idols can sometimes be disguised as good things like athletic achievement, academic success, and high social status. As Moses reminds us though, we are to love God with all our hearts, soul, mind, and strength. As much as we may fail at this (and we will), the point is that there is only one way to live rightly. There is one way to keep our kids safe. There is one way to prepare them for the future. There is one way to teach them to understand the world correctly. **The one way to raise our kids to know God is to teach them to love Him above all things.** That sometimes means saying no to good and beneficial things. But as followers of Jesus, we are called to make sacrifices so that we can follow Him.

If we want to establish a home life that is gospel-centered where there is deep discipleship, we must be immersed in God's word and walk out His truth in our own lives. **Learning is both caught and taught. When our kids both receive our teaching of God's word and see us living transformed lives and walking out that truth, we are evangelizing well.** Does this guarantee us to raise kids who follow Jesus? Sadly, no. But when we invest in them and their discipleship, we are doing what God has equipped us to do, and then we can rest in that, and let the Spirit take them the rest of the way, if it is in His will.

Reflect Together

1. Who has played a role in discipling and pouring into you? How did they point you to loving God with your heart, mind, soul, and strength instead of mere behavior modification or striving for worldly goals?
2. We talked about some specific idols that can get in the way of us fully worshipping God: academics, social status, athletics, striving for success, etc. Where have you been tempted to compromise giving God your full worship for following worldly priorities or idols?
3. We can only take our kids so far in their discipleship, and then at some point need to surrender to the Spirit to do the rest of the work. How is that going for you? How do you do with intentionally discipling your kids while also knowing that you don't have soul control over their salvation? What kind of truth do you need your community to remind you of? If you don't have kids, do you have someone younger you're discipling? If so, the question applies to you too!

Mission Together

As we approach the summer, we are encouraging all MCs to make it the summer of hospitality. This means making your group time more outward facing to non-believers.

This whole sermon series is about evangelism. Prayerfully consider who is **one person** in your life that you could pursue in relationship? Go through this exercise together:

1. Pray about who God wants you to pursue and how you can obey that call.
2. Work together as a group to come up with social ways to get yourselves and not-yet-believers together (game night, barbecue, play date at a park, party, etc.)
3. Make a plan! When and where will you host this, and what will the various responsibilities of the group members be?