

## PARENT'S PRIORITY

### THIS IS US

#### KEY SCRIPTURE:

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, SO THAT YOU, YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM MAY FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD AS LONG AS YOU LIVE...  
DEUTERONOMY 6:1-2

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.  
DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU TODAY ARE TO BE UPON YOUR HEARTS. 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. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR HANDS AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS. WRITE THEM ON THE DOORFRAMES OF YOUR HOUSES AND ON YOUR GATES. DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9

TRAIN A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6

#### STATS / QUOTES

IF MOM AND DAD WENT TO CHURCH: 72%  
IF MOM ONLY WENT TO CHURCH: 15%  
IF DAD ONLY WENT TO CHURCH: 55%  
IF NEITHER MOM NOR DAD: 06%

A PARENT'S PRIORITY IS TO GRADUALLY TRANSFER A CHILD'S DEPENDENCE AWAY FROM THEM UNTIL IT RESTS SOLELY ON GOD.

IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL WE FIND OURSELVES LIVING IN A CHILD-CENTERED HOUSE, AND NOT A CHRIST-CENTERED HOUSE! AND AS MUCH AS WE LOVE OUR KIDS, THEY DO NOT BELONG ON THE THRONE OF GOD! THEY DO NOT BELONG IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

"SOMETIMES PEOPLE TRY TO GIVE THEIR KIDS THE LIFE THEY NEVER HAD. AND IN THE PROCESS, SOMETIMES PEOPLE TRY TO GIVE KIDS THE FAITH THEY NEVER HAD."

IF WE DO NOT LEAD OUR KIDS TO CHRIST, SOMEONE ELSE WILL LEAD THEM TO SOMETHING ELSE."

## TALK IT OVER

**Start Reading:** Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What part of your childhood was most impactful on your faith?

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What are some important differences between the Deuteronomy 6 audience and modern Christians?
- Even though we are in the covenant of grace and not under the Law, why is the Sh'ma (vv. 4-9) a helpful and relevant teaching and prayer for the modern Christian?
- What is the main point being made in the Sh'ma?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- While the heart of the message in Deut 6 is focused on living a life centered around Jesus, there are many potential distractions in life. Taking this idea a step farther, Pastor Jeff noted that "good things may distract people in bad ways." Good, bad, or otherwise, what is a recent distraction from your relationship with God that you have overcome?
- What is the biggest distraction you are battling right now?
- What are some of the most meaningful things you've seen or witnessed, as a parent yourself or a parent you know, where someone gradually transferred dependence on the parent into dependence on God over time?
- Check the chip on your shoulder. This was not the main point of the sermon or the text, but it is a meaningful conversation for most people to have. Is there a chip on your shoulder that would be meaningful to share with your Gospel Community?

**Start Praying.** Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us as the perfect parent, for modeling for us how we may love our own kids and one another. We take this time to pray for the orphan and widow, a special group of people you've given us an extra responsibility to care for. We pray for our kids and the future generations, that we may pave a way for them to reach everyone we didn't get to, in Your name, amen!*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Do not try to fix every. Single. Thing. At once right now. Find and commit to one healthy step forward in loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and leading other toward that intentionally.