

# Sermon Study Guide

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Date: Feb 13/14'16

**THE MAIN THING:** Youth look for something to believe in, as do many adults. They seek answers to questions about the meaning and purpose of life. As followers of Christ, we know the way and the truth and we possess abundant life. God commands us to pass this faith on to the next generation and in our spheres of influence.

## PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. What perplexing question did you ask as a child  
OR, what challenging question has a child asked you?
2. When you were a child, what is something that an adult told you that still has meaning for you?
3. On looking at your generation in your family, what are some differences you notice between those older than you and those younger?

## PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. Read through all of \*\*Deuteronomy 6. What are the commands that God says 'to do'? What are commands 'not' to do? What promises come with each?
2. Why did Pastors Henry and Matt use the word 'Intentionally' with each of the keys?  
Intentionally cultivate a growing friendship with the Lord ourselves (vv 5,6)  
Intentionally embrace our God-given influence (v 7a)  
Intentionally live out your faith all day

How do Philippians 3:13,14 and 1 Peter 5 :5,6 give instruction about dealing with the mistakes we have made?

3. **Key #1:** What is the meaning of 'all your heart...all your soul...all your strength'? (vv 5,6)  
What are other words can express the meaning that Moses was portraying?  
Why is it necessary to have this kind of commitment when we pass on our faith to others?  
**Key #2:** Define the word 'impress' as it used in v 7a. How is this different from the usual definition of the word?  
**Key #3:** How is the word 'impress' demonstrated through the actions suggested in vv 7b-9?  
Pastor Matt gave some practical suggestions how his family carries out v 7.(Faith talks; God sightings and Serving Others.) How can we extend this principle to 'impress' those in our spheres of influence and beyond?

## PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community as you live out your calling.*

1. Read Dt 6:5. Think about how your loved ones would answer this question about you: "Whom/what do you love the most?" On a scale of 1 – 10 (10 being highest), rate your 'love' level. Which of the love components is most challenging for you at this time?  
What steps can you take this week to cultivate your relationship with God?
2. What steps can you take to pass on your faith to those around you (especially to the next generation)?

\*\*Deuteronomy's spiritual emphasis and its call to total commitment to the Lord in worship and obedience inspired references to its message throughout the rest of Scripture.' *Serendipity Bible*, p. 271.

## THE WORD (NIV)

### Deuteronomy 6

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, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. <sup>10</sup> When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, <sup>11</sup> houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, <sup>12</sup> be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. <sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. <sup>16</sup> Do not put the LORD your God to the test as you did at Massah. <sup>17</sup> Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. <sup>18</sup> Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.

<sup>20</sup> In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" <sup>21</sup> tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. <sup>22</sup> Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. <sup>23</sup> But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. <sup>24</sup> The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. <sup>25</sup> And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

### Philippians 3:13,14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### 1 Peter 5:5,6

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

# Sermon Study Summary

In Deuteronomy 6 the Hebrew people are about to enter the Promised Land and through Moses, God not only stresses the importance of passing on their faith but teaches them (and us) how to pass on our faith to the next generation and in our spheres of influence. God gives us 3 key principles that are vital in passing on our faith.

**Key # 1 – Intentionally cultivate a growing friendship with the Lord yourself.** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Dt 6:4) To love God with all our heart is to love him passionately; with great emotion. To love God with all our soul means to see God as our soul-mate; He completes us; and, we are aware of His Presence constantly, walking and talking with Him through the day. To love God with all our strength means to love Him with our will and our love for Him perseveres through good and bad. To love God with all our heart, soul and strength means cultivating a close friendship with Him and having high affection for Him. It means we believe Him and trust Him so completely that our identity and self worth is based in Him and that we seek to please Him alone. If we don't love God in this way we will not be able to pass on a desire for others to love Him. In other words, nothing can happen THROUGH us unless it is happening TO us. We pass on our faith to children and to others through our words, our shared experiences and most importantly through our actions. If we truly love Jesus, it will show in our lives – in how we treat others, what we value, and how we spend our time and money. A close friendship with Jesus will be evident in our attitudes, priorities, conversations, prayers, generosity, service and acts of kindness. If we want all God has for us and for our family and friends, we must surrender all we have to God. If we are not loving God with all our heart, soul and strength, then we need to humble ourselves and confess it to God and then take steps to grow in our friendship with Him. Only then will we be able to pass on our faith.

**Key # 2 - Intentionally embrace our God-given influence.** “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 door frames of your houses and on your gates.” (Dt 6:6-9) As followers of Christ, we may be the only spiritual influence in the lives of those we know, and as parents we have the greatest influence in the lives of our children. God commands us as His followers to live out our faith daily – in our home, at work, at school and in our communities

**Key #3 – Intentionally live out our faith all day** “These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children . . .” (Dt 6:6,7) “Impress” refers to a faith that sticks. We are not to leave our children's spiritual growth to chance but intentionally make it a way of life. Many parents struggle with leading and interacting with their children spiritually. Many are afraid they won't be able to answer their children's questions about the Bible and others are insecure about their own walk with God. Some parents can feel intimidated and overwhelmed when it comes to passing on their faith and may wonder how to begin. Matt gave three practical suggestions for parents to use in their families; all of us can use them to live out our faith not only with our children but with others in our spheres of influence.

1. **FAITH TALKS** : Set aside intentional times each week where as a family you talk about God, talk to God in prayer and hear from God through the Scriptures. At meal times talk to each family member about the highs and lows of their day and about anything they sensed God saying to them through events of the day or through others. Read the Bible to learn about the character of God. Pray with your children. Praise God through songs and prayers. Memorize scripture together and talk about how it applies to your lives. Faith Talks need to be age appropriate, to the point, and encourage discussion about things of God.

2. **GOD SIGHTINGS**: The goal of a God Sighting is to point our kids towards God as we see Him active in our lives (vv. 6,7) Observe and talk about God's creation with your children when you experience a beautiful sunrise, listen to worship music together and pray for issues the family is facing. Put encouragement notes in your child's lunch box with appropriate scripture verses. Pray with your child when he/she is struggling with a problem and point them to the Lord. Share how God has helped you in similar situations. Let your kids see you acting out what it means to be a Christ follower – be real, admit your shortcomings, ask them to pray for you, ask for forgiveness when you sin...

3. **SERVING OTHERS**: Show your children how to be light and salt in our world (Mt.5:13) and to show love to their neighbors (Mk 12:31) Show them how God brings people into our lives so we can be the hands and feet of Jesus. As a family, shovel a neighbor's walk together; do yard work for others; host other families in your home; pack and deliver care packages to the homeless; bake and deliver treats to the elderly or shut-ins. Involve your children in projects and let them pray over the project and the time spent together. Let them take the lead. Involve them in loving, encouraging and serving people around them. Encourage them to identify needs and then plan for ways they can help meet those needs.