

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **October 10, 2021** Family Theme | **Generational Discipleship**
Study Text | **Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; Galatians 5:22-23**

Objective: Help your children and grandchildren understand that their parents, grandparents, and other godly influences are to help them learn about God and His Word. They should learn and put into practice what they are taught.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson proclaims a biblical principle found throughout Scripture. In the latter days of their lives, both Moses and Paul emphasized the need for each generation to teach God's Word and ways to the generations that follow.

Bible Basics: Review Deuteronomy 6:4-6 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Timothy 1:3-7; Galatians 5:22-23

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how they can learn about God and His Word from their parents, grandparents, and other godly influences. Encourage them to put what they learn into practice.



Key Truth: Generational Discipleship Begins in the Home (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Generational discipleship is incorporating God into the things we already do in everyday life. It is allowing God to shape our everyday family experience to include His ways and His truths. Discipling our children doesn't require a seminary degree, a lifetime of biblical knowledge, or even the right answer all the time. Instead, it has everything to do with a willing heart and intentional actions. There are three distinct steps to family discipleship that we see in Deuteronomy 6:5-9. The first is loving God ourselves. The second is that we talk about the truths of God with our children or grandchildren. Moses said we are to talk about the truth of God as we go about our normal, everyday activities. The third principle is to model the ways of God to our children. Children learn how to be like Christ by watching us.



Key Truth: Other Godly Influences Can Help Parents Disciple Their Children (2 Timothy 1:3-7)

Fuller Theological Seminary conducted a multiyear study of hundreds of teenagers to find out what causes some to have a faith that lasts after high school and what causes others to flounder. One of the key truths they found among students that had a firm faith was that these students had a web of spiritual influence in their lives. It wasn't enough for just mom and dad to speak truth to them. There were coaches, teachers, grandparents, pastors, and small group leaders that all influenced the teenagers. We see this "web of spiritual influence" in Timothy's life as he grew into spiritual maturity. Timothy's mother Eunice wisely brought other influences into her son's spiritual guidance. She made sure Timothy spent time with his grandmother Lois and apparently encouraged the mentoring relationship Timothy had with Paul.



Key Truth: The Bible Is Full of Truths and Principles to Pass to the Next Generations (Galatians 5:22-23)

Since many of us never experienced this mentoring relationship ourselves, we feel at a loss as to where to start. The good news is, God's Word gives many important truths and principles to talk about with children. Here are a few to get us started. Teach and practice the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Live out the good news of repentance and forgiveness (Isaiah 1:18). Model a willingness to seek godly counsel before making major decisions (Proverbs 15:22). Be willing to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- What needs to be happening in parents' lives before they can effectively teach God's Word and ways to their children?
- What does Deuteronomy 6:7 say about how and when parents are to teach their children about God's Word?
- What would Deuteronomy 6:7 look like for us today? What are some "teachable moments" in our culture today?
- How can a church family support and partner with parents as they disciple their children?
- What steps could you take this week to begin discipling your children or to do so more effectively?
- If you do not have children at home, what could you do to help disciple the next generation?
- **For Elementary:** What does Deuteronomy 6:7 say about how and when parents are to teach their children about God's Word?
- **For Elementary:** Who are some people who are godly influences in your life?
- **For Elementary:** Who are some people to whom you can be a godly influence?

Everyday Extras

Teach your child something you learned from your parents. Choose an age appropriate activity. Here are a few ideas: making a bed, shining shoes, making biscuits or cookies, planting a tree, drawing a box, folding origami, hammering a nail, wrapping a gift, changing a tire or checking tire pressure, playing an instrument, ironing a shirt. But these are just prompts. Tell your child about learning the activity and why you do things like your parents did. That's the way God designed families — so that children learn from their parents and share it with another generation after them.

There may also be family stories that you can retell; maybe they are from your grandparents! God's Word instructs parents to share their faith with their children too. Teaching another generation about the wonderful works of God is a parent's privilege and responsibility. Be sure your "family storybook" includes stories about your faith.

Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned more about the different families God made. God wants parents to teach their children what His Word says, and He wants families to talk about Him wherever they are. Your child heard a Webster Family story to help him or her remember **God Made Families** to help others learn about Him.