

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for "the big question."*

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-12 aloud. Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell address to the Israelites. In chapter 5, he reviewed the 10 commandments. Now he calls the people to obedience.

1. What blessings or benefits are attached to following God's commands (2-3)?

The listeners and their descendants could fear the Lord and enjoy long life. It will go well with you and you will increase.

How well does this principle (blessing follows obedience) hold true today?

Would it be worth it to follow God if He did not give you blessings like long life and prosperity? Who are some people who followed faithfully yet did not prosper?

Joseph, Daniel, Jesus, Paul, Job, widow with two mites, Mary

2. How significant was Deut. 6:4-5 to the Jewish faith?

See Matthew 22:37-40.

What are the key thoughts of verses 4-5?

What does God ask of his followers in these verses?

What does that tell you about God and how he views our relationship with him?

3. Where were the Israelites to write God's words (6)?

On their hearts.

How would this relate to the parenting instructions that follow?

What parents hold privately, children express publicly.

4. What were some places and ways the Israelites were supposed to keep God's words before their children?

Daily conversation, attire, home decorations

What are some practical ways we can apply verses 7-9?

...in the way you structure your time?

...in the subjects of your conversations?

...in the things you wear?

...in the way you decorate your house?

5. What were some things God gave the Israelites once they arrived in the promised land (10-11)?

Land, cities, houses, wells, vineyards & groves

Why was forgetfulness a danger (12)? How could people forget a God who has been so good?

Verses 10-11 talk about how God cleared a path for Israel to settle in Canaan. What are some ways God has cleared a path for you? What has he given that you did not deserve or earn?

How much of our faith is new information, and how much is being reminded of what we already know and learning how to apply it in our daily lives?

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, this is it. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay to pass, but even the quiet people deserve a chance to respond.*

What helps you remember what God has done for you?

Resources

Bible notes

- Deut. 6:4-5 begins with the word Shema, hear. One of the best-known passages in the Bible. Probably would have been as familiar to ancient Jews as John 3:16 is to us.
- Jewish people of Jesus' day often put the words of the Shema in a tiny box they wore on their foreheads, called a phylactery (Matt. 23:5).
- There are two ways to translate verse 4: A) "Yahweh is our god, Yahweh alone." B) "Yahweh our god, Yahweh is one."

Kid-friendly activity...kids & adults growing together.

Celebrate the good things God has done this last week! *Applause!*

Everybody tell a story about your dad.

If you have younger children, ask everyone to draw their dad and share their drawing.

What does a dad do? What should his job be?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4 aloud.

What does the Bible say a dad's job is in the home?

What does the Bible say a kid's job is?

Close with a chain prayer, where dads pray for kids and kids pray for dads.



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LIFE Group Guide

Deuteronomy 6 – Nurturing children

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this conversation: **reminding one another, especially our kids, what God has done.**

Sunday's message considers Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and applies it to fathers. This is a great text that describes God's love and how he demonstrated that love by entering a covenant with Israel. The parents' job was to usher children into the covenant. Christians share a similar role of inviting people to discover how awesome it is to live with God!

Leadership tip: This is a discussion where the ice-breakers could take the entire session, and that is okay. When people start talking about their dad, it is amazing how much they have to say. We attach deep feelings, both positive and negative, to our fathers.

I. Relate *Use a few of these to introduce the theme and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage individuals through these questions.*

- ❖ If you were to draw or show us something that symbolized your dad, what would it be?
- ❖ What is the best thing your father did for you?
- ❖ Memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-5 as a group.
Recite it together 3-5 times at the beginning of the meeting and twice at the end.