DEUTERONOMY 6:4–9

FDP
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

PONDER › PRAY › PRACTICE › PROCLAIM

Read and study Deuteronomy 6:4–9.
> **Ponder:** Ponder the challenge to teach the next generation the things of the Lord.
> **Pray:** Pray fervently for the next generation to know, love, and follow Jesus.
> **Practice:** Evaluate your current rhythms and practices of discipling others.
> **Proclaim:** Saturate your everyday rhythms with conversations about the truths of God.

PONDER

Ponder the challenge to teach the next generation the things of the Lord.
The following questions can act as a guide for your meditation on this truth and its implications, helping both your personal reflection and your conversation with others in light of God's Word.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and consider: Who is the Lord?
- Meditate on the majesty, supremacy, and holiness of God.
- Confess that He is worthy to be praised and worthy to be proclaimed.

Consider the forgetfulness of man in light of the urgency of knowing the truths of God.
- Read Judges 2:6–12 and ponder the possibility of being one generation away from a people who do not know the Lord or what He has done.
- What often distracts us from faithfulness to the charge to teach the next generation?

Read biblical references such as Psalm 78:1–8, Deuteronomy 4:9–10, Ephesians 6:1–4, and 2 Timothy 3:14–15, and consider God's design for the family and the family of faith to be the means by which children learn who God is.
- How do each of these speak to the importance of the family in the replication of the faith?
- How does your responsibility to this charge extend beyond your own children, or beyond when your children are grown?

Read Deuteronomy 6:7–9 and consider the charge to teach the next generation diligently. The things of the Lord are weighty and glorious; they demand strategic and intentional care when teaching our children. We must not approach this discipleship task passively, flippantly, or haphazardly.
- What does reactivity or passivity in teaching the next generation reveal about our hearts?
- What do these verses reveal about the consistent and constant nature of our spiritual conversations?
- What do these verses reveal about the prominence that biblical truths should have in our lives?
- If you have children in your home: If these verses were a rubric to evaluate your pursuit of spiritual conversations and teaching your children, what patterns and habits do you currently have that you are thankful for? Where do you have opportunities to grow?

PRAY

Read Deuteronomy 6:4–7 and pray fervently for the next generation to know, love, and follow Jesus.
- **Pray for healthy marriages** that honor God, edify one another, and reflect the gospel.
- **Pray for parents** to prioritize teaching the things of the Lord despite worldly obstacles. Pray for families to be devoted to biblical truth above all worldly distractions.
- **Pray for our preschoolers.** Each week, they are taught foundations about who God is and what He gives His people. Pray that they would grow up with a solid foundation in God's Word that cannot be shaken.
- **Pray for our elementary kids.** Each week, they are taught the story of what God is doing in the world through creation, the fall, redemption, and new creation. Pray that they would be captivated by God's glory and His work in the world.
- **Pray for our middle school students.** Each week, they are taught biblical truth about their transformed identity in Christ. Pray that they would live faithfully as they are called to live in Christ.
- **Pray for our high school students.** Each week, they are taught biblical truth about leveraging their influence to make much of Jesus. Pray that they would be bold and faithful to live for Christ and point others to Him.

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PRACTICE

Evaluate your current rhythms and practices of discipling others. Consider how you could take next steps of obedience, whether you have children in your home or not. The following section gives questions for you to consider, and then various examples of ways you could pursue sacrificially building up others.

- Prayerfully and carefully evaluate your life through the lens of Scripture. Invite others in your Go Groups into what you're thinking, asking them what they observe in you and how you might grow.
- Use the examples below as a starting place to come up with more or different ideas that fit your family.

If you have children in your home, evaluate your current rhythms and practices of family discipleship. Use Deuteronomy 6:6–7 to help you consider various areas where you can take next steps to add or expand healthy abiding pursuits within your family.

- How is your personal abiding relationship with Jesus? Are you regularly pondering the truths of God? What do your pursuits of prayer and obedience to the Word look like?
- Do you explicitly and consistently teach your children about the truths of God?
- Are you diligent to teach your children? Do you have an intentional plan for how and what you will teach, or are you passively waiting for them to ask questions so you can react in the moment?
- What kinds of conversation fill your home? Is your speech saturated with the things of God, or with the cares of this world?
- What are your rhythms to talk about God as you go about your days with school, work, errands, and activities?
- What daily rhythms, such as bedtime or breakfast, can you capitalize on to be intentional with spiritual conversations?

If you do not have children in your home, consider what your next step of obedience might be to come alongside your church family for the purpose of the next generation knowing, loving, and following Jesus.

- Do you regularly pray for the marriages, families, and next generation leaders in our church?
- Can you come alongside a family or families in our church?
  - If you are older or further along in marriage, how could you invite younger couples/families into your lives to be a faithful model and example for them?
  - If you are single or a young married couple who doesn't have children yet, how could you come alongside and support parents in raising their children to love Jesus?
    - Examples: Invite a family over for dinner, or offer to make and bring dinner to them. Go to kids' ball games, birthday parties, or school plays. Offer to babysit for a date night.
    - Ask them about their pursuits of family discipleship. Ask them how you can pray for their marriage and children. Ask them how they see the Lord working in their family. Ask them where they are struggling or where they could use help.
    - Talk to their children about Jesus.
- Can you serve in kids or student ministries to consistently be proclaiming Jesus to the next generation?

PROCLAIM

This week, look for opportunities to saturate your everyday rhythms with conversations about the truths of God.

- Purpose to have one spiritual conversation at home and one conversation outside your home every day.
  - In addition to considering the places you regularly spend time, be creative with new opportunities. Consider how you might use travel times to call someone you haven't seen in a while, neighbors or extended family members you could take your kids to meet, or local service opportunities you could join as a family.
- Early in the week, make a plan for who you will talk to, what you will ask them, and what truth you will share with them.
  - Pray for the people that you plan to talk to.
  - Choose a passage of Scripture that you can use to share truth with them, and read and meditate on this passage before you talk to them.