

WHY WE BELIEVE...

Deuteronomy 6:4-15

April 21, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Do you have a family heirloom or treasure that is meaningful to you? Who gave it and why is it meaningful?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week, we are going to take a short break from the Book of Acts and turn our attention back to **Why We Believe...** And the focus this week is - **Why We Believe...Parents should be the primary disciple makers of their children.** To study this, we're going to read Moses's words in **Deuteronomy 6:4-13**. Primarily, it is a reminder of the responsibility of passing along what God has done for His people.

And this is important to remember - being a disciple-maker is **THE** command of the church. Not only does this include our responsibility to disciple one another - but it extends to our homes. Scripture consistently teaches that one of the greatest responsibilities a Christian parent has is to disciple those who live in their own home. The biblical command is for Christian parents to teach their household to obey all that Christ has commanded - and typically, you only have 936 weeks in which to disciple. In **Deuteronomy 6**, we learn that God says the most important part of being a parent is teaching children to know, follow, and trust Him. This passage also contains a key passage known as the Shema. In essence, this passage emphasizes the oneness of God, our complete devotion to Him, the importance of passing/ teaching the Word of God, and the necessity of obedience to God's commands.

If we were to take the time to read a little further - say to **Judges 2** - we would see that parents and the nation of Israel did not take this command seriously. In **Judges 2:10**, we read, **"there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel."** Those who heard **Deuteronomy 6** did not take the command seriously or to heart. They did not pass on **Deuteronomy 6** to the next generation. As we teach the next generation, we should pay attention to this warning. We are always one generation away from our children or grandchildren **"not knowing the Lord or the work that He has done..."**

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

Question 1: In **verses 4-5**, we are introduced to the Shema - **the fundamentals of the faith**. Spend some time discussing these verses in your group.

- Why do you think God calls us to love Him with all of our heart, soul and might?
- Why these three areas specifically?
- What does a divided heart or soul or might look like?

Question 2: **Verses 6-7** are commands that require our “time” - *the actionable parts of our faith that require practice*. And in our culture, we tend to over-schedule our lives with “time traps.”

- What are some “time traps” that we can fall into?
- Where are you intentionally and regularly talking about the things of God with your family?

Question 3: In **verse 7**, we are asked to teach “diligently.” Diligent describes a strong commitment to something. In other words, we work hard and don’t give up easily.

- What does it look like to teach your children “diligently”?
- What frustrations do we have as we are attempting to teach?

Question 4: List the things that Moses told the people to do in **verses 7-9** so they would better remember to keep the commandment to love God. [*shall teach them diligently; shall bind them as a sign; shall write them*]

- Discuss **verses 8-9** in our modern context - meaning, how do we accomplish these verses today...how do we “bind them as a sign”?

Have someone in your group read **Deuteronomy 6:10-15**

Question 5: In **Deuteronomy 6:10-15**, we are given the words that Moses commanded “*shall be on your heart,*” from **verse 6**.

- Why is it important that they should remember these words and that these words should be on their heart? [*It reminds the people that God is doing all of the work: He brought them to the promised land. He gave cities. He provided everything to them. He brought them out of Egypt*]

Question 6: In **verse 13**, how was Israel commanded to fear God? [*to worship and serve Him only; not to serve other gods.*] How are we - as parents - doing with this one?

- Are we teaching our kids to serve other “gods”?

Question 7: In **verses 14-15**, what are the consequences for worshipping other gods? [**Judges 2** says that they “did what was evil” and “abandoned the Lord, the God of their Fathers,” as that as a result “the Lord was against them...as the Lord had warned” [**Judges 2:11-12, 15**]]

- Are there any practical lessons we can get from this - *both Deuteronomy and Judges* - today?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: **Deuteronomy 6:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: **Deuteronomy 6:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

