

## THE OUTLINE

### PART 1

#### DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

- Partnering with parents in the church or energizing your family's spiritual life
  
- All studies show that the most powerful force in a young person's life is their family
  
- Three phrases on my desk in my office:
  - When you reach the family, you reach the world...
  
  - One of the purposes of the church is to mentor parents, parents mentor their children and the legacy of faith continues to the next generation...
  
  - *"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not just welcome me but the one who sent me."*  
*Mark 9:37*

## IT'S NOT A PROGRAM...IT'S A MINDSET

### **The Shema:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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 doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”*

- Faithfulness and fidelity to God (loyalty to God)
- How we transmit faith and love (through the family)
- How we keep a constant mindfulness of the teachings and presence of God

### **The Jewish leaders were testing Jesus:** Matthew 22:35-40

*“An expert in the law, tested him (Jesus) with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’*

*Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’”*

**Jesus Creed:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart...and love your neighbor as yourself.

- What are you doing in your church to partner with parents and help families succeed?

“It’s our top priority for next year!”

“We have tried and it hasn’t worked.”

“We know it’s important.”

- What’s holding you back?

- It means more work... already too busy
- We’re insecure
- We sense parental resistance
- No say in adult education or a silo church mentality
- Lead pastor is threatened

## PERSONAL & GROUP REFLECTION

### PART 1

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. All three phrases Jim talked about at the beginning are powerful examples of family ministry. Which phrase stuck out the most in your mind?
2. “Family ministry is not a program, it’s a mindset.” How do you help make partnering with parents and family ministry more of a mindset at your church?
3. The Shema is a powerful roadmap to facilitate family discipleship. How can your church best teach this roadmap to the families in your church?
4. What makes the “Jesus Creed” such an incredible goal to live by and why?
5. Of the five possible options that hold churches back from partnering with parents, which one relates most to your church?