“Don’t let them forget”

Deuteronomy 6:1–9

Markie Watson

The Woodside Church November 22 , 2026

Have you ever stopped to think about what people will remember about you? Not necessarily the things you accomplished, the places you went, or even the things you said, but what they will remember about the way you lived.

What will the people coming after us remember? What will our children remember? What will our students remember? What will the next generation remember about the way we lived out our faith? We are all here because of someone’s faith, someone’s message, someone’s love and prayers.

We celebrated 80 years as a church this past year, and what we do now will ensure there are 80 more. We all pass something down, everyone in this room has something to bring to the table, something that’s worth passing on. We are constantly teaching the people around us what matters most. Sometimes we do that through what we say, but more often, we do it through the way we live. And that’s exactly where we find Moses in Deuteronomy 6.

Moses is nearing the end of his life. He has spent years leading the Israelites out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and now they are standing on the edge of the Promised Land. Think of Deuteronomy as Moses’ farewell letter! Moses knows he isn’t going with them in the promised land because God told him He wouldn’t be.

Moses won’t be there to lead them into this next chapter. A new generation is going on without him. Moses has an opportunity to remind them of what matters before they move forward. He knows that the Promised Land will bring new opportunities, new comforts, new distractions, and new things competing for their attention. And his greatest concern isn’t whether they will be successful in the land. It’s whether they will remember the God who brought them there.

He doesn’t want the next generation to forget. So before Israel steps into this next chapter, Moses gives them some instructions. And at the center of those instructions is a reminder- that their relationship with God cannot be something they take for granted or something they leave behind.

Let’s read Deuteronomy 6:1–9 together. May God bless the reading of His Holy word.

As we look at these verses, I want us to see three things Moses emphasizes. Three things that are just as important for us today- to think about the faith we are passing on. We can sum up Moses' message to these three statements.

Remember Him. Live It Out. Pass It On.

Notice the order of what Moses tells them. He doesn't start by telling them to teach. He starts by telling them to love God. Because passing down faith starts with living out faith.

Remember Him

Verse 4 and 5 read- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. The first word in verse 4 is 'Hear.' In Hebrew, it's the word Shema. This became known as the Shema, which is one of the most important declarations of faith in Jewish tradition. This word hear, means more than just listening. It's listening with the intention of responding. In other words, Moses isn't just telling Israel to hear something. He's calling them to respond to who God is with their entire lives.

And notice what follows: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.' Before Moses tells them what to teach the next generation- he reminds them WHO they are supposed to love." "God isn't just looking for a generation that has heard about Him. He's looking for a generation that responds to Him." And this starts with you. Right now.

What does it take to genuinely love God? Are we just speaking without participating? Our relationship with Jesus should be the center of our day. I have been stuck in a rut before- believe me. Getting Caught in the busy with no way to slow down. I would map out my days, write my appointments and schedules seeing just how quickly I would need to run from one thing to other and I caught myself in a full stop.

My youth director job title may look like I'm in a holy place when i sit in my office everyday but my title is not equivalent to time well spent with Him. My prep for youth group may look like intentional study but it couldn't replace meeting with Him; just Him and I. Loving God looks like closeness to Him. Surrounding ourselves with Him.

It looks like closeness. It looks like inviting Him into a schedule that already feels jam-packed. Some things in our schedules are nonnegotiable. We wouldn't think about missing them. We make room because they matter to us. But what does it say when our time with Jesus is the thing that gets pushed to the bottom of the list?

I had to realize that my time with Jesus couldn't just be whatever time I had left over. It needed to become the priority. you cannot pass down a relationship with Jesus- that you aren't actively pursuing yourself.

So Moses has established what matters most. Love God with everything you have. But Moses doesn't stop there. He knows that loving God isn't something that should just be acknowledged in a moment or something we just say we believe. Belief requires action -It should change the way we live.

Look at verse 6

Notice that Moses doesn't just want God's commandments to be something Israel knows. He wants them to become part of who they are. And then he starts describing what that actually looks like."

2. Live It Out: Make Faith Part of Your Everyday Life (Deuteronomy 6:6–9)

"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart."

Moses moves from loving God to making sure His commandments are woven into the rhythms of everyday life.

Notice the language:

● Talk about God's commands when you sit in your house.

● Talk about them when you walk along the way.

● Talk about them when you lie down.

● Talk about them when you rise.

● Bind them on your hands.

● Write them on the doorposts of your house.

God wasn't asking Israel to reserve Him for one day a week or one hour on Sunday. He was calling them to build a life where remembering Him was unavoidable. The greatest way to connect with others is to spend time with them. We have lost some of the intentional rhythms that used to bring families together.

● Families don't always eat dinner together.

● Conversations about faith can become something reserved for church.

● We become so busy that we forget to create space for meaningful conversations.

● Faith can become something our children experience only when we drop them off at church.

Faith was never meant to be something our children only experience at church. It was meant to be something they experience when they sit at our dinner tables, walk through our homes, and from watching how we live. Thanksgiving is coming up. How many families have a kids table? We set up these divisions all the time in our lives. Moses challenges to us is to take every opportunity to share life with each other. The greatest way we learn is by seeing. Do your children, family or friends see you reading Scripture? Do those closest to you -see you be vulnerable, authentic and humble? Do others see you at the feet of Jesus in both the joys and sorrows?

And just as importantly -do you invite them to come alongside you through it all? Faith is meant to shape every part of our lives, so are you living it? Because the greatest way we can teach someone what it means to follow Jesus is to let them see what it looks like and to lead by example. But Moses doesn't stop at telling Israel to make God's commandments part of their everyday lives. He takes it a step further.

Look at verse 7.

Impress them upon your children..."

Moses isn't just concerned with what this generation knows about God. He's concerned with what the next generation will know about God. And I think there's an important distinction here. It's one thing to live out your faith in front of the next generation. It's another thing to be intentional about making sure they understand why you live the way you do.

We can't assume that just because our children, our students, or the people around us see us going to church that they understand what it means to follow Jesus. We have to talk about it. We have to tell the stories. We have to create opportunities for questions, conversations, and reminders of God's faithfulness. Moses is preparing Israel for a future he will not personally experience. He knows he isn't going into the Promised Land. His leadership is coming to an end, but God's story is continuing. And he wants to make sure that when he's gone, the next generation still knows who God is." The greatest success of the enemy is division, removal of connection and the illusion of business.

His great success is telling us we have nothing to offer the next generation when connection is what they are yearning for. You can model prayer, but you also need to teach them why you pray. You can bring your children to church, but you also need to explain why gathering with other believers matters. You can demonstrate generosity, but you also need to teach them about God's generosity. Don't just let the next generation watch your faith. Invite them into it.

3. Pass It On: Be Intentional About What You Pass Down (Deuteronomy 6:7–9)

God doesn't fill our cups so we can keep everything for ourselves. He fills us so that we have something to pour into others. And here's the thing: you don't have to have everything figured out to invest in someone else. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to be willing to show up, share what God has done in your life, and invite someone to walk alongside you."

Think back to Moses. Moses knew he wasn't going to be there for the next chapter. He wasn't going to walk into the Promised Land with this generation. But he could make sure they knew the God who had brought them there. And I think that's the challenge for us. This past year, we celebrated 80 years as a church. Think about that for a moment. Eighty years of people faithfully showing up. Eighty years of people praying, serving, giving, teaching, leading, and investing in the generations that came after them. There were people 80 years ago who made decisions that allowed us to be sitting here today. There were people who probably never got to see the fruit of everything they planted. They may never have known the people who would eventually walk through these doors, but they were faithful with what God had given them.

And now it's our turn.

We are enjoying the fruit of someone else's faithfulness. The question is, what are we planting today that someone else will get to enjoy 20, 40, or 80 years from now? Because what we do now matters. The way we love Jesus matters. The way we serve matters. The way we invest in children, students, young adults, and the people around us matters.

We cannot assume that the next generation will automatically know the God we know. We have to be intentional about showing them. Someday, the next generation will look back. Will they remember that we went to church, or will they remember that we loved Jesus? Will they remember the rules we gave them, or the faith we demonstrated? Will they know what we believed, or will they understand why we believed it? We cannot guarantee that the next

generation will follow Jesus. But we can be intentional about showing them what it looks like to follow Him and exactly why we do.

So don't let them forget.

Remember Him.

Live it out.

Pass it on.

The faithfulness of God should never become a forgotten story. We have been entrusted with something worth passing down. Let's make sure the generation coming after us knows the God who brought us here. You can start today, Volunteer for adventure club or youth group. Look to invest and pour into a young adult. Help with Night to shine by being a buddy to a friend with special needs as they enjoy a prom for the night If kids aren't your thing -volunteer to help in the kitchen or mentor a younger adult who might need help moving through life as a professional or be a young person starting a family. Volunteer to help any age or neighbor with need. Working with people is hard, so you work with Bruce on church facilities projects. Maybe you feel best when singing a song for God, give your gifts to the worship team. Impact the generations to follow. Christmas is coming up, think of 3 people you can invite to the Christmas eve service and be praying for them!

Engage as a family or growth group in mission- invite your friends and neighbors to serve alongside you. There is something out there for you. Remember Him. Live it out. Pass it on. Start today!

Pray with me

Dear Lord,

We come before you today wrapped in your love. We are not here by accident. We come before you knowing that how we live matters. We know we can't do it alone. Guide our steps-, build our paths. Give us each purpose in pouring into someone else. Let us make being with you the non negotiable task of our day. Let us invite you into our homes, let us build reminders in our hearts for all the goodness you have brought to us- especially when days get gloomy. Build up our confidence to know you have placed something special in each of us that you had always meant for us to share with others. Guide us through thinking through what it means for us to live this challenge out. We love you, we thank you - give us hearts to hear from you. In Jesus name.

Amen