

life group study guide

ORANGE



Called Home Family = Red

Bottom Line: "God calls Grandparents and Parents to pass on His Word to their families."

Items needed:

Get Started:

All of us have some sort of family tradition that has been passed on to us from those who've gone before. Sometimes these are incredibly poignant, sometimes they're simply hilarious. *Share one of your favorite – or hilarious – family traditions. If at all possible, share one that has been around for a long time.*

Q: What are some of your family traditions? (Give the class 5-10 minutes to share.)

Sometimes we pass on things without even knowing the reason they started! I heard about a woman who always cut the ends off of her ham before baking it. Her young daughter asked her why she did that. She responded by telling her that she'd watched her mom do the same thing, so she'd just always done it that way. The young mother decided to call her mother and ask her why she cut the ends off the ham. Her mother responded with the same answer! Well, they had to know, so they called Great-Grandmother to ask her the reason she always cut the ends off the ham before baking it. "Well", she said, "I just never had a pot big enough to hold the whole thing, so I had to cut part of it off!"

Oh my! It is my prayer that I can hand down a much more intentional legacy to my great grandchildren!

Get the Scoop:

God created the Family as the primary means by which His Name and Fame would be passed on from generation to generation. We're going to take a look at how His Word directs us in instructing our children about faith, and passing on our faith-legacy, but first, we're going to take a few minutes to rate ourselves on how we're currently doing in several different categories.

(You may want to divide your class into partners – husband/wife, two friends, etc. However, some people may respond better if they're allowed to rate themselves privately. Please use your discretion.)

Give yourself a rating on a scale of 1-10 in the following categories. 1 is low, 10 is high. (No 5's...too easy.)

1. Your family can see in your daily example that you love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.
2. You know the 10 commandments and clearly share their meanings and modern-day (New Testament) application with your family.
3. You talk about God's word in daily conversation with your family.
4. You intentionally memorize God's word on a regular basis.
5. You have a plan for keeping God's word in front of you – and your family – on a regular basis.
6. A visitor would know about your relationship with God after touring your home.
7. You remember and thank God regularly (with your family) for the blessings He's given you.

life group study guide

8. You are diligent about keeping God first in your family; in spending, time, entertainment, extracurricular activities
9. You strive to obey God's commands and offer a good example to your family.
10. You've thought about the legacy you want to pass on to your children and have taken steps toward that end.

Now – if you're anything like me, you're feeling a little less-than-satisfactory as a parent, grandparent, or mentor at this moment. Be assured that God is not holding a clipboard with a daily checklist and marking your rank 1-10. But, when asked to rank myself, I often take the time to think about things I've not thought about before. There were probably things in our rating-test that offered you a bit of satisfaction in seeing that you're doing quite a few things right! And, then, there were probably reminders of things we could be more focused on in our faith-legacies. The fact that you're participating in this discussion today is proof that you care about the faith-legacy you're handing down to your children and grandchildren. Let's take a look at what God's Word tells us about doing just that.

Dig In:

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-25. (It's long, so you may want to assign verses to different people throughout the room.)

Q: What are the overarching principles God gives the Israelites in this chapter? (Love God, teach children about Him, obey His commands, this will be their righteousness/protection/blessing.)

Q: Dt. 6:1-4 makes it clear that obeying God's decrees will give them long life and they will have the opportunity to increase and enjoy a prosperous land. How can we see this same benefit – long life/blessings – in a life of obedience, without succumbing to the "health and wealth" gospel that's so prevalent today?

Q: Read Dt. 6:5-9. What distinct commands are we given for passing on God's Word to our families?
- Make a list on poster board or white board.

Q: Let's take a deeper look at each one of these commands. Give an example of how each of these could be obeyed/carried out in today's culture. (At this point, we're not taking the time for each family represented in the class to choose how to implement each and every one of these commands into their families. That challenge will come at the end of the class. We're simply brainstorming how they *may* be done today.) (You can have someone in the class write down these ideas beside each of the commands on the white board.)

For Example: Vs. 7. Talk about God's Word when you sit at home/walk on road/lie down/get up.... We can spend time in God's Word when we are sitting together at breakfast, we can pray, sing God-songs, recite memory verses in the minivan, we can pray/read God's Word/family devo at bedtime, etc.

Take It Home

It's true: The Bottom Line is that God designed the family to be the primary source of teaching His Word and instructing our children. This applies to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. I'm always challenged when reading this passage to see how I can increase what we're doing at home to bring God's word to the forefront.

Q: What one command from Dt. 6 stands out to you today?

Q: What one command will you implement this week? How will you do that? Share with your spouse/friend next to you.

(- If your class knows you well, you may have them write on an index card their focus for the week. Have them write their mailing address on the other side. Mail them the card on Tuesday/Wednesday so they receive it before the next Sunday as a reminder to be diligent and intentional in creating opportunities for faith-instruction.)

Bottom Line: "God calls Grandparents and Parents to pass on His Word to their families."

life group study guide

For Further study:

Check out these verses: Proverbs 1:7, Psalms 22:30-31, Matthew. 18:14, Ephesians 6:1-4, Proverbs 4:3-4.

Write out a family-legacy...what do you want your family to be known for, how do you want your children to remember you? Create an action plan for implementing the commands we find in Dt. 6, and enroll your entire family.

Where do hope to see your children's faith when they leave your home? Is what you're doing now going to get you there? If not, what can you, with God's help, change?