



“Gather at Home and as the Church”

Selected Scriptures

Main Idea: God’s design is for us to gather in biblical community at home and as the church.

The home is God’s original design for where the next generation learns to love, to listen to, and to live for the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

- *Love God fully and truly at home so the next generation can see how to love God fully and truly (4-6).*
- *Share God’s Word at home so the next generation can learn to listen to God’s Word (7).*
- *Live God’s Word at home so the next generation can know what it looks like to live for the Lord (7).*

Deuteronomy contains the final sermons of Moses. His time on earth was coming to a close, and he knew that he would soon no longer lead the people of Israel. He understood that he would not be the one to lead God’s people into the land that the Lord had promised. So the words in this book are incredibly powerful and important words. They are the words of God spoken through his prophet Moses, and they are words that were foundational to the nation of Israel’s understanding of how to faithfully live in covenant with God and how to pass their faith along so that the next generation would understand how to faithfully live in covenant with God. The words aren’t complicated or hard to understand. God’s commands are simple, but what’s obvious in these verses is important. The command was connected to the homes of God’s people. The expectation was for the home – the natural family – to be the place where faith was passed down from generation to generation, and God’s design for that included some very basic things.

First, a home that passes down faith is a home that loves the Lord fully and truly. The best way for the next generation to see what it looks like to love God fully and truly is for that to be modeled in everyday life – in ordinary ways – in the home! Parents and grandparents can help the next generation see how to love the Lord by loving God fully and truly at home. Second, a home that passes down faith is a home that shares God’s Word at home. A home that loves the Lord will listen to the Lord, and there’s no better way to help the next generation learn to listen to God’s Word than for God’s Word to be shared in the home. Third, a home that passes down faith is a home that lives God’s Word at home. The evidence of loving the Lord and the realities of the truth of God’s Word come alive and can be experientially known through a life that lives for the Lord! In ordinary, everyday ways, the most powerful way to help the next generation know how to live for the Lord is for parents and grandparents to live for the Lord at home.

1. What does it mean to “love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might?”

2. Are you loving the Lord with all your heart? Are you loving him with all your soul? What about with all of your might? How is he calling you to love him fully and truly today?
3. How are you sharing God's Word at home? What are practical ways that you can make God's Word a regular part of your time as you gather together at home?
4. How are you living God's Word at home? What does this look like in everyday, ordinary ways? Why is this so important?

The church is God's gracious design for gathering Christian homes together to love, to listen to, and to live for the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:17, 18, 20, 33, 34; 14:23, 26; Hebrews 10:25).

- *As the church gathers, God builds up his people (1 Cor. 14:26).*
- *As the church gathers, God encourages his people (Heb. 10:25).*

In 1 Corinthians 11 and 14, there is a repeated phrase that's important for new covenant believers. That phrase is "when you come together." What's critical to see in these verses is the expectation that God's people would in fact come together! In chapter 11, Paul addressed a problem in the way the church in Corinth was observing the Lord's Supper. Paul gave them instructions for how to properly share the Lord's Supper, but included in these instructions was the repeated expectation that God's people – the church – would in fact gather together on a regular, weekly basis. The term church implies this very reality, pointing to those who are called out and assembled together! While the home is still God's original design for passing faith from one generation to the next, the church is God's design by his grace of that work in the context of extended, spiritual family. The church is not a place. The church is God's people through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ. The church is God's family, and God's expectation is that his people who love him, share his Word, and live for him at home will leave their homes in order to gather together weekly to love him, to share his Word, and to live for him together! When the church faithfully and biblically gathers, God uses that time together to build up his people. In fact, in Hebrews 10:25, God commands that his people do not neglect to meet together! God will use that time of meeting together biblically and faithfully to encourage his people. As the church is built up and encouraged, so are the homes of the believers who make up the church.

1. How does loving, listening to, and living for God at home complement and bring life to the time we gather together as the church?
2. Why is gathering together as the church just as important as gathering together at home?
3. If there's a disconnect between the practice of faith at home and as the church, what does that do to the faith of the next generation? Have you ever experienced that?
4. Have you experienced the blessings that God promised in these verses through faithful and biblical gathering as his church: Building up and encouragement? Share testimonies to build up and encourage one another?
5. How does building up and encouragement in the church filter back to build up and encourage faith in the home