

FAMILY: Week 2 – An Appetite for God

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses gives the Israelites the commandment that would become known to Jews as the Shema. Moses is calling them to internalize the commandments, so that the commandments, once written on stone tablets, would now be written on their hearts and passed along to their children. In the New Testament, Paul writes the Ephesians giving them instructions on how their relationship with Jesus significantly impacts their marriages.

Tell the story – Deuteronomy 6:4, Ephesians 5:22-32 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[God desires our complete, undivided devotion to Him; there is only one true God; God desires an intimate and personal relationship with us; Jesus demonstrated His love to us in that while we were still sinners, He died for us; Jesus is our Savior; God wants to transform my life; God calls husbands to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands; God has defined love for us in verse 29 (to nourish and cherish/provide and protect); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I can get distracted from hearing and reading the Word of God; I must make a personal decision to submit to the Lordship of Jesus in my life; I can become seduced by the gods of this world; the love I express to others is a poor example of the love Jesus has shown me; I can treat my marriage relationship like a contract instead of a covenant; I forget that God is worthy of my love and devotion; I am prone to selfish living; etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. How is it possible for husbands and wives to have the kind of relationship that Paul described? What adjustments need to be made in your marriage that would honor God?
2. Why is it important that children see their parents modeling a Christ-like marriage?

Assign next week's passage – Deut. 6:5-7, Eph. 6:1-4 *[Ask someone to tell the story.]*

Close in Prayer

FAMILY: Week 2 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Remember, as the Facilitator of your Grow Group, your goal is to help members in your group experience the passage and gain understanding of what is being discussed. From there, they can consider and reflect on what they have heard. This reflection often leads to “aha” moments. They aren’t just studying information, but the Holy Spirit is leading each participant to personal application. Once people share what the Holy Spirit is leading them to do, you must stress accountability within your group to follow up on these commitments.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

Your availability is the key to your shepherding. Make sure that the people in your group know that you are available. This means that you must tell them! Obviously, we cannot be available 100% of the time. This is why we urge you to work as a team and not try to disciple everyone in your group on your own. People in your group need to know that you consider them a priority and that you desire to help meet their individual physical and spiritual needs.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

“When our awareness of the greatness of God and the gospel is dim, our prayer lives will be small.” Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney

The power in the Sermon on the Mount lies in its ability to convict us of our lack of desire to be like God. Outward obedience is relatively easy; saying things like “I give to the church,” or “I pray occasionally.” Conversely, internal obedience is much harder. To be a person that does not give into hateful thoughts, that does not look with lustful eyes, and one that seeks only the approval of God is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit within us.

Similarly, prayer is not born from an outward obedience that is told, “you must pray.” Rather, prayer wells up from an inner awareness of the greatness of God and His love for us. Seek God and pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you more about God’s character and His love for you. The deeper you know Him, the more natural prayer will become.

Reflect upon The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:5-14.

Does your current prayer life reflect the qualities of hypocrites (wanting to be noticed), gentiles (rambling to impress God) or of the Lord’s Prayer (submission to God)?