

FAMILY: Week 4 – The Binding Symbols

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 6:7, Moses challenges parents to seize every possible moment to provide spiritual guidance to their children. In verses 8 & 9, Moses also says that this commandment is to be a public matter. A person's wholehearted love for God is to be seen by those around them. In I John 4:7-21, John clearly details that an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ will be exhibited in our love for others.

Tell the story – Deuteronomy 6:8-9, I John 4:7-21 *[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 governs all activities inside and outside the house; God calls for us to abide in a personal relationship with Him; God calls us to hide His Word in our heart so that we won't sin against Him (Psalm 119:11); God wants our homes to bring honor and glory to Him (Joshua 24:15); God calls us to let our light shine before others, that they may see our good works and glorify the Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16); God's perfect love casts out fear; etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I am called to love others as God has loved me; I can use the word "love" often but seldom actually demonstrate it to those around me; I get distracted from abiding in my personal relationship with Jesus; I need to make sure that my home honors Jesus Christ; I need to give higher priority to Scripture memory; it is nearly impossible for me to love my enemies apart from His abiding love in me; 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. To help us remember God's Word, what can we use as modern day equivalents to frontlets between our eyes, a sign on our hands, or writing on our doorposts?
2. What character qualities would you like your children to display as adults?

Assign next week's passage – Deuteronomy 6:10-25 *[Ask someone to tell the story.]*

Close in Prayer

FAMILY: Week 4 – 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]*

Summer is a great time to plan activities with you Grow Group and invite those who are not a part of a group to join you. Here are a few ideas for great gatherings:

- Meet at a local park - Go bowling - Host a BBQ - Have a game night
- Throw a swim party - Gather at a fishing spot - Eat outside on the Causeway
- Plan a beach day - Watch a baseball game - Attend a play - Play putt-putt
- Do a breakout game - Go on a shopping trip - Play a round of golf - Go camping

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

Discuss your summer “Get-Togethers” with your Grow Group. Make sure you are clear on the purpose of these gatherings. Your purpose should be two-fold: 1) get to know those in your group on a more relational level and 2) create a neutral atmosphere for inviting new people. Getting people there is only the first step. Follow up with those who come. Stay connected with them, keeping the conversation with them going in hopes of finding out where they are spiritually. Continue to invite them to your Grow Group.

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

Sin distresses us. It is painful when we mourn and face our own sin. Sometimes, we can get so caught up in the pain, that we have a hard time accepting God’s forgiveness. In Luke 7:36-50, we see that when the woman takes her sin to the feet of Jesus, He comforts her by forgiving her many sins. Then, He tells her to go in peace. The same is true for us. To live the unstoppable life, we have to recognize our sin, confess it to the Lord, and accept His forgiveness. Once God has forgiven our sin, we should forgive ourselves, as well, and go in peace.

In the same way, we are to forgive others. Memorize Colossians 3:13:

- “Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”