



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: What is the most unusual name in your family (it's okay to go back a few generations)?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 2 & 4.

1. What is one thing you really enjoyed about your family growing up? What is one thing you would have changed? The message today was called "In This Family." What is one fun value you've experienced (in your family or witnessed in another family) and one deeper value? For example, "In this family, they have April Fool's wars," or "In this family, they don't get what they want when they whine."
2. Albert Einstein said, "Example isn't another way to teach, it's the only way." How does our example impact those around us? What is something you learned about family - whether it was right or wrong - by watching the example of another person? Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. How does talking about God's commands with children help support (or contrast) the examples they are seeing? How do these verses challenge you as you consider the children God has placed in your life (whether your own, or someone else's)?
3. Author and psychologist Dan Allender says children ask two core questions of family: first, "Am I loved?" and second, "Can I always get my own way?" In other words, they're asking for love and limits. One of the biggest challenges to keeping this balanced is fatigue. In what ways has weariness tried to lead your home, be it the one you're in now or the one you grew up in? How much of the weariness you (or that of your parents) experience is within your control? Be specific. As you understand what you can control, how might your group support you as you interact with others?
4. Author Reggie Joiner wrote, "There are two powerful influences on the planet – the Church and the home. They both exist because God initiated them. They both exist because God desires to use them to demonstrate His plan of redemption and restoration. If they work together they can potentially make a greater impact than if they work alone. They need each other. Too much is at stake for either one to fail. Their primary task is to build God's Kingdom in the heart of men and women, sons and daughters." What do you think it would practically look like for each of our unique households to embrace what this quote sums up? How might you influence the people God puts in your life with this idea?

Personal Guide for Week of April 22nd

Read the following passages to discover what the Bible says about being an example to others.

DAY 1: Read Ephesians 4:25-32

DAY 4: Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

DAY 2: Read Ephesians 5:1-10

DAY 5: Read Titus 2

DAY 3: Read Ephesians 5:11-21

IS THIS US?

MESSAGE NOTES AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES

“IN THIS FAMILY”

APRIL 22, 2018

IS THIS US?

A SERIES ON PARENTING AND FAMILIES

“In This Family”

[Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Today’s text: Deuteronomy 6

God’s dream: Every person wholeheartedly receiving and wholeheartedly unleashing _____ in Christ.

- Hurdles?
- Blessings?

Metaphor: Relay Race

1) Find your _____ (Deuteronomy 6:1-2)

“On your mark...” (Deuteronomy 5)

Before a loved one can have a relationship with God they need to know what _____.

“Get set...” (Deuteronomy 6:3a)

Ask, “What don’t I know about what I _____?”

“Go!” (Deuteronomy 6:3b)

Step again and again and again toward the only _____ that matters.

Tip: Be careful of the “willpower” and “_____” myths.

2) Embrace your _____ (Deuteronomy 6:4)

“Listen, O Israel!” = _____ in God’s family

“The LORD is our God, the LORD alone” = Father, Son and Spirit = “I AM”

Tip: Invest into the _____ and multiply the _____

(but also be on guard: “If we can’t grow with you then we can’t roll with you.”)

3) Pass your _____ (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Use the habit to fight for the person and not the person to fight for the habit.

Everybody, regardless of _____ has something to impart to everybody, regardless of _____.

Reimagine your usual rhythm with even _____ more _____: eating meals together, walking/traveling together, bed time, getting up in the morning, texting, church gatherings, etc.

Tip: Aim for an _____ faith and _____ celebrations.

4) Wear your _____ (Deuteronomy 6:10-25)

Let it be known, “This _____ is a part of a bigger story.”

What is normal isn’t common. What is common isn’t normal.

Speak up - share inspiration and bring up _____ subjects.

Tip: Use a _____ for prayer and purpose.

Is This Us?

- With God, _____ always precedes rules.
- What happens in our households has the power to reorient us. What happens in us has the power to reorient our households .
- _____ or fatigue will at some point overtake _____ and focus.
- You’re not crazy. You’re not weird. You’re not alone. We love you and we are for you.
- Let it sink in that there’s a _____ and _____ who deeply love you and _____ you.
- Don’t put your _____.

Looking for real practical ideas? Check out Pastor Tony’s list at www.MyRiversideChurch.com/Practical-Ideas.





“In This Family”
Tony Myles, Student Ministries Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES – Big Lake Campus

Today’s text: Deuteronomy 6

God’s dream: Every person wholeheartedly receiving and wholeheartedly unleashing wholeness in Christ.

- Hurdles?
- Blessings?

Metaphor: Relay Race

1) Find your lane (Deuteronomy 6:1-2)

“On your mark...” (Deuteronomy 5)

Before a loved one can have a relationship with God they need to know what one looks like.

“Get set...” (Deuteronomy 6:3a)

Ask, “What don’t I know about what I know?”

“Go!” (Deuteronomy 6:3b)

Step again and again and again toward the only finish line that matters.

Tip: Be careful of the “willpower” and “hypocrite” myths.

2) Embrace your team (Deuteronomy 6:4)

“Listen, O Israel!” = Everyone in God’s family

“The LORD is our God, the LORD alone” = Father, Son and Spirit = “I AM”

Tip: Invest into the investors and multiply the multipliers

(but also be on guard: “If we can’t grow with you then we can’t roll with you.”)

3) Pass your baton (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

Use the habit to fight for the person and not the person to fight for the habit.

Everybody, regardless of age has something to impart to everybody, regardless of age.

Reimagine your usual rhythm with even 10% more structure: eating meals together, walking/traveling together, bed time, getting up in the morning, texting, church gatherings, etc.

Tip: Aim for an everyday faith and weekly celebrations.

4) Wear your colors (Deuteronomy 6:10-25)

Let it be known, "This household is a part of a bigger story."

What is normal isn't common. What is common isn't normal.

Speak up - share inspiration and bring up tricky subjects.

Tip: Use a map for prayer and purpose.

In case you missed it...

- With God, relationship always precedes rules.
- What happens in our households has the power to reorient us. What happens in us has the power to reorient our households.
- Fear or fatigue will at some point overtake faith and focus.
- You're not crazy. You're not weird. You're not alone. We love you and we are for you.
- Let it sink in that there's a Father and family who deeply love you and pursue you.
- Don't put your notes away.

