



Group Leader Guide

“Family Takes Intentionality” – The Perfect Li(f)e

November 23-24, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Executive Campus Pastor, **Jesse DeYoung**, wraps up the series “**The Perfect Li(f)e**” this week. Using **Deuteronomy 6**, he shows us that it is the parent’s responsibility to teach and impress upon their children the Word of God. Too often, we delegate this to other people, for good or bad. However, intentional parenting is a calling from God to every parent, no matter their area of expertise. Jesse also unveils some exciting new resources that Flatirons will be providing from now on to help you, as a parent, teach your children.

// Biblical Context: Word Study

Deuteronomy 6:7: שָׂנֵן (shaw-nan) translated as “**impress**” (NIV) or “**teach diligently**” (ESV). This word choice is very interesting. The simplest translation is “sharpen.” It is used throughout the Old Testament to refer to the sharpening of weapons, such as swords and arrows. It is also used figuratively to describe sharp words and God’s sharp judgment. However, here it is describing the act of teaching your children the Word of God, and it brings to mind two different ideas. First, **Psalms 127** describes children as arrows in the hand of a warrior (the parent) that will not put the warrior to shame. Presumably, these arrows are sharp, and **Deuteronomy 6:7** describes how to make them sharp. Secondly, it brings to mind the act of chiseling on a tablet, as the

10 Commandments were. A sharp tool was used to do this. **Jeremiah 31:33** says that God wishes to write His law on the tablet of our hearts as a sign of a new covenant with him. **2 Corinthians 3:3** calls faithful people a “letter from Christ,” written not with ink or on a stone tablet, but on the tablets of human hearts. And again, Deuteronomy shows that even though it is God that does the writing, parents are often His chosen “chisel.”

// Biblical Context: Deuteronomy 6:7

The second part of verse 7 tells us when we should talk to our children about the Word of God. What Moses (who is the one talking in these verses) uses here is a figure of speech called a “merism,” which is a way of representing a whole by mentioning the parts of that whole that are the most different. Confusing, I know, but we do this all the time. Saying “Ladies and gentlemen” is a way of addressing everybody. Saying “young and old” is a way of referencing everybody. “Day and night” is a way of referencing “all the time.” So, when Moses says, “when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,” these opposite actions represent them and everything in between. “When you lie down and when you get up” is similar to “day and night,” or “all the time.” Moses isn’t saying these four times are the only times when you have to instruct your children. He is saying you are never to *stop* instructing your children!

// In Preparation

This week, everyone will be handed a marble to represent the influence you have in your child's life. As Jesse will explain, this influence could have years remaining, or it may have seemingly come and gone. Or, maybe you don't even have children. However, the challenge from Jesse will be to find a way to make *this* week count, either in your child's life, in the life of the next generation in general, or in your life in preparation for one day having a child. Discussion this week will most likely revolve around this topic, so make sure you are fully prepared with your own plan!

Also, this is the last week of the group semester! I know that many of you will continue to meet, but we encourage you, as a leader, to find time during this off-season to rest and recuperate. As an encouragement to this, we will not be providing such in-depth content until groups start back up in the spring. We will still offer it, it will just be lighter. Thank you so much for the time you have invested this semester in leading your group. We hope that you have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas!

// References

Baker, Warren, and Gene Carpenter, editors. *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament*. AMG Publishing, 2003.

Merrill, Eugene H. *HCSB Study Bible*. Holman Bible Publishers, 2010.



Discussion Questions

“Family Takes Intentionality” – The Perfect Li(f)e

November 23-24, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Galatians 6:9; Psalm 90:12

// Community Questions

1. What is the worst story of a kid on a plane you have ever experienced, whether it was your kid or someone else's?
2. If you have kids still in the house, how many weeks do you have left until they are out from under your care? (1 year = 52ish weeks)

// Core Questions

1. Deuteronomy 6:5-6 makes it clear that YOU are to love the Lord with all of your heart, soul, and strength. The Word of God is to be on YOUR heart. This will then be the place that you can draw from to teach your children (verse 7). What are you doing in your life to strengthen yourself in the Word of God?
2. Have you become passive in your child's or children's spiritual lives?
3. To whom or what have you delegated the spiritual instruction of your children?
4. Did you pick up any resources from the Parent Resource Wall? If so, what are you most excited about?
5. How sobering is it to know the exact amount of time you have left with each of your children as their primary source of spiritual instruction?
6. Looking at the marble you got at church this week, what can you do to make *this* week count in the lives, or future lives, of your children?

// Challenge

Whether you have children in your house or not, there is something that you can be doing to influence their lives spiritually. That may be working on yourself so that you have a well to draw from. That may be picking up a book from the Parent Resource Wall to better prepare yourself for hard questions. It may be simply scheduling a lunch with your adult child to let them know how proud of them you are. Do something this week to invest in the spiritual lives of your children, even if you don't have any yet.

Also, this is the last official week of groups this semester. Your group may continue to meet, but be sure to carve out some time during the off-season to rest and spend time with your family!