

EKKLESIA

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"

Discussion Guide

May 13-14, 2023

"EKKLESIA" Week 5: "For The Family"

GATHER

- Has there been a time where you've been especially grateful for how the people of God have contributed to the wellbeing of your family? What were the circumstances? Why was it meaningful?
- If you were at a weekend service, share your takeaways from the message you heard. What was something the Holy Spirit highlighted for you?

GROW

This weekend's message was anchored in **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** and interacted with some other key texts (see below). Talk through the topic more thoroughly as a group using the outline below.

Feel free to select a suggested question or two in each section to guide your conversation.

- **Understand Their Story**

First read Deuteronomy 5:1-6 to understand the context of Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

- Who is hearing these words? [The people of Israel \(Deut. 5:1\)](#).
- Where are they and how did they get there? [They're in the wilderness and nearing the promised land. They've been miraculously rescued from slavery in Egypt \(Deut. 5:6\), they've been given the law and entered into a covenant relationship with God \(Deut 5:2\)](#).

Now read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and talk through some of the following questions.

- What are God's instructions for his people? [To love the LORD with heart, soul, mind, strength \(v 5\), teach God's words to your children, talk about them in every situation \(v 7\), remind yourself of them - write them on the doorposts of your home / your gates etc \(v8\)](#)
- Why does God want them to follow his instructions? (see also Deut 6:14-15, 18, 24) [That they may fear the LORD \(Deut. 6:2\), that they may enjoy long life \(Deut. 6:2\), that it may go well with them, that they may multiply \(Deut. 6:3\). sin has consequences \(Deut. 6:15\); God wants it to go well for them ask they take possession of the land \(Deut. 6:18\); God wants their good always, and wants to preserve them \(Deut. 6:24\)](#)
- How does understanding God's heart motivate obedience to God's commands? [If we believe God loves us, and knows what leads to human flourishing, we're more likely to obey! If we think he's holding out on us & wants to make us unhappy, we're less likely to obey! The serpent convinced Eve that God's rules restricted her true potential - this led to sin \(Gen 3:4-5\)](#)

- **Connect To His Story**

Deuteronomy 6:4 is referred to as the great “Shema” (from the word for “hear” in Hebrew). This foundational statement was regularly recited throughout Jewish history and recognized later by Jesus as the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-38).

- Look up John 14:21, 1 John 5:1-3, and Matthew 12:46-50.
 - What do these verses tell us about what loving God looks like? How does this help us identify where we may *not* be loving him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?
Keeping God’s commands is how we love God. If there’s an area of disobedience in our lives that is a good place to reflect, confess + repent, and make some changes to love God more fully.
 - What do these verses tell us about the “spiritual family”? And how does that help us navigate the variety of biological family experiences in our group/church?
Those who believe in Jesus and keep God’s commands are his children (1 John 5:1-2). Jesus calls those who do his will his brothers and sisters (Matt. 12:50). For God’s people, there may be a deeper sense of belonging and love available in the community of faith than in our family of origin.

Discuss Deuteronomy 6:6 and the idea of the commands being “on your hearts”. What’s the difference between how Israel was set up to keep God’s ways vs how we are today? How does our current reality make a difference in applying Deuteronomy? (see Jeremiah 31:31-33 and/or Ezekiel 36:26-27)

- In the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-32) that Jesus establishes, we’re given a new heart (Ezek. 36:26), we’re given the gift of the Holy Spirit to have God’s law in us (“I will put my law within them” - Jer. 31:33) and the power to also keep God’s ways (“I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules” - Ezek. 36:27).

GO

- **Apply To Our Story**

Northview aspires to make more and better disciples, leaders, and churches. Unto what end? Primarily: that God be glorified (as we saw week 1), but also for the good of our city (as we saw week 2), for the good of one another (as we saw week 3), for the good of the nations (as we saw last week) and also for the good of the *family*. *Feel free to select a section or two to use in your group time.*

- Deuteronomy 6 describes God’s desire for the future generations to know and follow him. Read and reflect on Psalm 145:1-7 which addresses this desire as well.
 - What are the current challenges you see (or are personally facing) when it comes to discipling the younger generations? How are you navigating those?
 - What are the ways you see God at work in the younger generations? What potential might the Holy Spirit be drawing out?
- The spiritual family can be a resource for individuals and their biological family.
 - What areas do you think the church/our community group is best positioned to contribute to the wellbeing of families?
 - Thinking about what you see in Deuteronomy 6:1-9, are there ways you’re personally contributing to intergenerational discipleship in the church? Are there ways you are personally receiving the benefit of this in the church?
- Are there things you’re finding success in as you integrate discipleship into all of life (Deut. 6:7-9)? Share what’s working.

Pray!

- Spend time praying for people in the families in your group. Pray especially for the good of those who may need care, or may need a course correction to God's ways.
- You could also pray for the "All In" Building Campaign - that God would provide another tool for his kingdom purposes in the lives of people and families in our church, city, and world.
- All of our activity is unto God's glory and for our mission to help every person become a "deeply rooted follower of Jesus". Who are those who don't currently follow Jesus that you could pray for by name?