

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Only a God Like You, How Great Thou Art, Make Us One, He Knows My Name

WELCOME

Next Gen's Trophy. What is the greatest contribution that you are making for the next generation?

WORD

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-7

¹Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, ²so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." ⁶These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

How do we view our role in passing on the faith to the next generation? To answer this, we have to consider that our view of the next generation greatly shapes the way we relate to our own children today.

The Bible tells us that the next generation is like arrows in the hand of a warrior (**Psalm 127:14**). This means that the generation behind us is the greatest resource God has given us to equip, train, and prepare to be the next line of warriors when we are gone. We all then have a responsibility of raising up the next generation to come and follow God. How do we put this huge responsibility into action?

The Book of Deuteronomy, in particular Moses's final speech to Israel before they entered the Promised Land, will help us unpack this responsibility. The same principles God gave to Moses apply to us today as well.

After spending four decades in the desert, things were about to change for Israel. They no longer had fire by night and a cloud by day telling them where to go. How were they going to maintain their faith when they moved to a new era in their history as a nation of God?

MAKE GOD THE LORD OF YOUR HOME (DEUTERONOMY 6:4)

Moses says that we should make God number one in our lives and in our homes. If we care about the next generation, we should start by looking into the mirror

and ask ourselves who and what is lord of our lives and our homes.

Whether we like it or not, something is lord over our lives and our homes. It could be our work, a hobby, a material object, etc. The best way to find out the lord of our lives and our homes is to look into two places: our checkbook, how we spend our money; and our calendar, how we spend our time. Jesus said where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. The truth of who God is in our lives and our homes shall echo not only in this generation but also from generation to generation.

LOVE GOD WITH EVERYTHING (DEUTERONOMY 6:5-6)

Moses also says we should love God with all our heart, soul and strength. This means love God with everything. If we want the next generation to love God, we have to ask ourselves: do we really love God?

What are we passionate about? What are the topics that we get excited about? If we want the next generation to be passionate about the Lord, we must first be passionate about Him. This is because children tend to follow the passions of their parents, or their grandparents, or any significant adults in their life.

How do we help the generation after us learn truth and live truth? Moses told Israel to pass on God's truths, commands, and statutes to the next

WORD (cont'd)

generation. But he said that the Israelites have to first show that they themselves have kept it in their hearts. Today, many young people leave the church and become atheist or agnostics because the truth admittedly was never in the hearts of their parents.

MAKE GOD PART OF THE RHYTHM OF LIFE IN YOUR HOME (DEUTERONOMY 6:7)

Moses says to Israel to repeat God's commands to their children all the time. In order to pass on the faith to the next generation, it is important that we make God part of the natural rhythm of our lives in our homes.

Today, we live in a global culture deeply affected by secular thought that tells us to compartmentalize our faith. It tells us to keep it private and not let it affect the things we do. But Christianity is a worldview that should shape everything that we are and everything that we do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **All Around.** What are the commands of God through Moses according to **Deuteronomy 6:1-7**?
2. **Our Home.** What is your family's mission and vision? How are you living it out in your home and outside?
3. **Pass the Baton.** Who are you specifically training, equipping with God's truths from the next generation?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Moses says to talk about God all the time. List down a specific action plan that you will do to talk about God in the following occasions and be able to pass the baton to the next generation. Use the guide below:

When you sit down – Talk about God at the family meal. At the family meal, stories are told, jokes are laughed at, and the wider world is viewed through the lens of the family's values.

When you walk along the road – Connect with the children when you travel; for example, create a "question game" that enriches their knowledge about God in the context of current events, academics, etc.

When you lie down – research says that the last thing we think about before we go to sleep is most likely to stay in brain and memory and stick for a lifetime.

When you rise up – Talk about God in the morning which sets the pace for the day.

The way we develop our religious beliefs is the same as the way we think about politics, culture, relationships, and other things. Because what the adults believe so naturally comes out through life's daily rhythm, children learn to think about and see the world through the lens of the generation ahead of them.

Notice how natural it is for us to talk about the things we love all the time. Just the same, when we really love the Lord, we will find ourselves repeatedly talking about it with our children. Moses says to talk about God with our children all the time – when we sit down, when we walk along the road, when we lie down, and when we rise up.

When all has been said and done, God will not care about the material legacy that we are leaving behind. One of the things that shall matter the most is when we look back and ask ourselves: what did we do to help pass the baton to the next generation?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends