

Family Survival 101
The Principles Every Family Must Learn
Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 10-25

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Text Introduction: We have been learning from Deuteronomy 6 that God gave the primary task of discipleship to the home. Last week we said, “**High purpose calls for high priority because the price of failure is too high.**” This thesis is the implication of a text of Scripture that outlines for us the survival of not the family, but the nation. So, we have been saying, “So goes the family; so goes the nation. We turn today again to Deuteronomy 6 to begin to understand the precise nature of this foundational truth about society and the family. I want to isolate for us the specific principles that must be taught in the home.

Text:

⁴ "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

¹⁰ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would give you—a [land with] large and beautiful cities that you did not build, ¹¹ houses full of every good thing that you did not fill [them with], wells dug that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. ¹³ Fear the LORD your God, worship Him, and take [your] oaths in His name. ¹⁴ Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you, ¹⁵ for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God. Otherwise, the LORD your God will become angry with you and wipe you off the face of the earth. ¹⁶ Do not test the LORD your God as you tested [Him] at Massah. ¹⁷ Carefully observe the commands of the LORD your God, the decrees and statutes He has commanded you. ¹⁸ Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that you may prosper and so that you may enter and possess the good land the LORD your God swore to [give] your fathers, ¹⁹ by driving out all your enemies before you, as the LORD has said.

²⁰ "When your son asks you in the future, 'What is the meaning of the decrees, statutes, and ordinances, which the LORD our God has commanded you?' ²¹ tell him, 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand. ²² Before our eyes the LORD inflicted great and devastating signs and wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh and all his household, ²³ but He brought us from there in order to lead us in and give us the land that He swore to our fathers. ²⁴ The LORD commanded us to follow all these statutes and to fear the LORD our God for our prosperity always and for our preservation, as it is today. ²⁵ Righteousness will be ours if we are careful to follow every one of these commands before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

Introduction: When I was in college and seminary, I always looked with a mixture of fear and excitement for the first day of class. On the first day of class, the professor, in most every case, would distribute a syllabus. It was from that syllabus that you learned how many tests and how many papers the course would require. Thus, on that first day, I either got excited about how few assignments or feared too many assignments.

But the real purpose of the syllabus, as I look back, was to give a sense of what was going to be studied—of what was required to master in that class. We are talking about building families for survival right? Well, here in Deuteronomy 6 is our syllabus. Here are the things that our families must be learning if we are going to survive. Remember, God's will is that you teach your children these things. We want to be your partner, but you are the main teacher.

Mom and Dad, here are the spiritual things that your children must be taught if they are going to survive in the world that awaits them.

1. **Know God!**

Includes...

- Theologically, which means that He is the only true God
- Personally, which means salvation
- Intimately, which means growing

Remember always that there is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing someone. All of us know about the President, but I'm not sure if anybody here knows the President.

2. **Love God!**

- Completely—the key phrase is “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.” We probably want to understand heart, soul, and strength. I'm not sure if the more important part of this phrase is “all.”

Now, we are going to talk next week about how to teach these principles in very specific ways, but this is a good place to remind us that our children learn best not by what we say, but what we do. Your children are going to pick up on whether you really “love God” with “all.” They will see and compare your love for God with your love for things.

3. **Worship God!**

The word “worship” is in verse 13, but the idea of worship begins in verse 10.

- Begins with remembering

4. **Fear God!**

This may be the most difficult lesson to teach. The text gives us a good idea of what “fearing God” means though. Verse 15 gives us a perfect illustration of why it is important to fear God. We want to make sure that we are submitted to God.

5. **Obey God!**

To know Him, say that you love Him, fear Him, or worship without obeying Him is pointless.

6. **Trust God!**

Every family is going to have to learn to trust God. We don't begin to talk about trust when there is a crisis. We talk about trust when things are good. Then, our families, by faith, will know to trust God when things go wrong.

Conclusion: We started out by talking about the syllabus. I also remember regrettably getting that syllabus, seeing the assignments, noting the dates of exams and papers, but waiting to get to work.

I'm trying to make the plea this morning that we don't do the same with this syllabus from Deuteronomy 6.