



### ***Week Five:*** Spiritually Developing Our Kids

Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

There is so much that inspires fear for parents, that if we don't choose a God-centered approach to raising our kids we will default to fear-based models. God-centered parenting says, "If I show you and teach you to love and trust God and follow His ways, you will be prepared to thrive and be fearless in an evil and difficult world." But what does that entail? It starts with our own example of loving, trusting, and obeying God. That personal devotion leads to shaping our kids' spiritual development through the purposeful use of the structured and unstructured times we spend with them. Ultimately, the whole process of bringing up the next generation of God-worshippers is bathed in prayer.

*A note to small group leaders:*

*Depending on the stage of life of your group members, you may have to think creatively about how to help your group members apply this series to themselves. Eric was very clear this week that the spiritual development of children is a multigenerational endeavor. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends all have a role and a responsibility. We GET to do this together. If you have people who are not parents or are not currently raising their kids, be sure to ask them their thoughts and feelings each week. Be aware that there may be pain in this discussion for those experiencing fertility struggles or who have a strained relationship with their adult kids, for example.*

*The following questions are based on the "My Application" guide on the back of the sermon notes in the bulletin. Feel free to revise or customize them according to your group's needs.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe how your own parents contributed to your spiritual development. Did they help you, hinder you, or ignore spiritual issues completely?
2. What sorts of God-centered habits were part of your normal family routine? Were there any you want to imitate?
3. READ Deuteronomy 6:1-9. The focus starts with the parents setting the example of love and obedience to God. How have you tried to do this in your own life? What helps and what gets in your way?
4. When it comes to prioritizing the spiritual development of your own kids, what challenges do you face? (OR if you don't have kids in your home, answer that question with regard to grandkids or disciple-making relationships.) How can we create space in our week to do it more consistently?
5. Out of the ideas suggested for prioritizing spiritual development in your own life and passing it on to the next generation, which ones stood out to you? Eric suggested the following, but you may suggest others:
  - a. Weekly Sabbath
  - b. Family Devotional Time
  - c. Weekly hangout time (one-on-one)
  - d. Bedtime availability to talk
  - e. "Take them with you"

**Application:**

- Identify one practical idea for prioritizing and engaging in the spiritual development of yourself or your children. Take a step to implement that idea this week.
- Take advantage of the Parenting and Technology seminar Wednesday night. Share what you learn with the group next week. Here's the link to RSVP and reserve childcare: <https://www.hcbc.com/parenting/>
- Return next Sunday for the final installment of Fearless Parenting. Even if you think it doesn't apply to you—Ask God what He wants to say to you...and LISTEN.
- Who do you know who needs to hear this series? Invite them to join you.

**Prayer:**

Have each group member identify someone whose spiritual development they have the potential to impact. As you pray, have each person pray for the one to their right:

- That they would personally love God with everything they've got and follow His ways.
- That they would see and take advantage of opportunities to show and teach the person they mentioned how to love and obey God as well.

**Scripture Memory:**

*"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.  
Impress them on your children."*

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7a*