



Leader Guide

Influence With Intent

August 7, 2022

Main Passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:37-38

Theological Theme

Jesus clearly identified the most important commandment. Believers must be intentional about knowing God, loving God, and leading the next generation to do the same.

Introduction

- ❓ How well do you receive instructions? Do you like to know the whole list at once or just a few steps at a time?
- ❓ What have you found to be helpful when you have a list of things you need to accomplish or complete?

To lead the next generation well, we must focus on the most important things of faith. Jesus boldly quoted an Old Testament passage to reinforce what we must do specifically to know God and lead our children to have a vibrant, sustainable faith.

1. Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-38)

There is a saying, “If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time.” Many of us can attest to the truth of this, but sometimes we feel overwhelmed if there are too many targets to shoot for in our lives. Because the Bible is true and relevant to daily living, we should always strive to be like Jesus. The best way to do this is to know and apply Scripture.

2. Know it (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

Going back to this Old Testament record of the same commandment gives practical application of how we as believers can love God with our all. These verses in Deuteronomy are part of the Shema, a very well known portion of Jewish teaching that covers both a description of who God is and what our response to Him should be. These words were not just taught but were literally so foundational that they were quoted daily by people of faith because they give specifics for how believers should live.

3. Teach it (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

Once you know God and love Him the way you should, the second part of the Shema gets into specific actions that will follow. Just as Jesus lived His life intentionally and selflessly, we are also called to focus on others.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC