

GOOD NEWS FOR FAMILIES

Deuteronomy 6:4–12; Mark 10:13–16 (ESV)

⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”^[a] ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, 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. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

¹⁰ *“And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”*

- Deuteronomy 6:4–12

¹³ *And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”*

- Mark 10:13–16

INTRODUCTION:

Deuteronomy 6 reminds Israel to love the Lord wholeheartedly, to be captured by His Word and pass it on, and to acknowledge His goodness and providence. These three foundations form the heartbeat of faith within families. In Mark 10, Jesus welcomes children, affirming that the kingdom belongs to such as these.

Families are part of God’s “family business” (2 Corinthians 5:17–18), entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. This means that discipleship begins at home - the Christian mandate is first lived out in the household, where faith is nurtured, passed on, and embodied in daily life. Together, these passages and themes remind us that families are not only recipients of God’s good news but also conduits through which His mission is carried forward. In Singapore today, where families face many pressures, the church is called to strengthen homes as places where God’s love, Word, and providence are lived out daily.

DISCUSS:

1. Love the Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4–5)

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 calls us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and strength. This love is the foundation of faith in the family. When parents and children anchor their lives in God's love, faith becomes more than ritual—it becomes relationship.

How can your family grow in loving God wholeheartedly, so that faith is not just taught but lived out in daily relationships?

2. Be Captured by His Word and Pass It On (Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 emphasizes treasuring God's Word and diligently teaching it to children. Faith is meant to be woven into the rhythms of daily life - at home, on the way, at bedtime, and when you wake up. Families become conduits of faith when God's Word is lived out consistently and intentionally.

What are some practical ways your family can be captured by God's Word and intentionally pass it on to the next generation?

3. Acknowledge His Goodness and Providence (Deuteronomy 6:10–12)

Deuteronomy 6:10–12 reminds Israel not to forget the Lord when enjoying His blessings. Families reflect God's heart when they acknowledge His goodness and providence, giving thanks and remembering His faithfulness. Gratitude keeps faith alive across generations.

How can your family cultivate a spirit of gratitude, regularly acknowledging God's goodness and providence in both blessings and challenges?

Pray:

1. For Families Anchored in God's Love

Lord, deepen our love for You so that our homes may be rooted in Your presence and shaped by Your grace. Teach us to love You with all our heart, soul, and strength, and let this love overflow into the way we relate to one another in our families. May our marriages, parent-child relationships, and extended family ties be marked by patience, forgiveness, and kindness that reflect Your love.

2. For Families Captured by Your Word

Father, help us to treasure Your Word and pass it on faithfully, that our families may be conduits of faith for generations to come. Give us discipline to read and meditate on Scripture daily, and to apply Your Word in our conversations, routines, and celebrations. Strengthen parents to teach diligently, and children to receive joyfully, so that faith is not just spoken but lived.

3. For Families Grateful for Your Goodness

Lord Jesus, teach us to acknowledge Your goodness and providence daily, that gratitude may shape our homes and witness to Your faithfulness. Guard us from forgetting You in times of abundance, and remind us to trust You in times of need. May thanksgiving be a regular rhythm in our families, expressed in prayer, worship, and acts of generosity.