



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of April 18, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connect

- What was your favorite game growing up? One of your least favorite games?
- What is one thing you've learned from someone else in your family that has changed how you live?

Engage the Bible - Read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20** together.

The Context

Parenting Ain't No Game

How do we raise kids with a dynamic faith? How do we navigate the ups and downs of life as a family?

In today's passage, Moses invites us to look ahead, to the future. All kids will deal with all of life as they move forward. They are going to ask some pretty big questions - about life, faith, and more. And he says, we have to look ahead. Why? Because, they are looking to us now, to prepare them for what they face in their future. We need to take the advice of Moses and get ahead and focus on the future.

This past Sunday Dave shared that we need to think with the end in mind and ask: **Who do I want my child to become?** Who do we want those we love to become? Who do we want to become?

Think about that because that defines for you the vision you have for your kids & your life. It gets past all the distractions, it's not what do I want them to do, accomplish, and feel, but who do I want them to become. Remember even if you think you don't have this defined, it's being defined by the way you live. That's why Moses is so passionate about sharing and passing on what is known as the "Shema" ([Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)). It's a Hebrew word meaning to listen and obey; to put things into action.

As Dave shared we should be led to: **Make a relationship with God the focus of our lives.** When we do this, we realize that we're led to adjust our goals to ask, dream, and plan to guide the lives of our families towards answering: **Who does God really want our kids (us) to become?**

Your role as a parent (or influencer) is to find out what God designed each child for and help them pursue God's vision for their life. When we pursue these things, it helps create a **Vision for life. Vision Creates Focus. Vision Shapes Strategy. Vision Influences Priorities.** This helps us all become who God desires us to be.

Discuss and Apply

1. What is the focus or emphasis in the Deuteronomy passage we read today? The Jewish people to this day will typically repeat this daily (the Shema): how might this be helpful spiritually? What can we learn from? How can we practically apply this today?
2. What comes to mind when you hear "Make a relationship with God the focus of our lives"?
3. How does culture and the pulls of daily life help, hinder, or hurt you from focusing on your relationship with God? How do you manage any tensions or hinderances?
4. What do you think God is most concerned about: what you accomplish, what you acquire, or who you become? How does changing which goal we focus on first impact or influence the others?
5. How does thinking about life through the lens of "Who does God really want our kids/us to become" differ from how you were raised, or how you go about your normal life focus? How is it helpful to think this way?
6. Share some of your family's priorities, values, & vision for life? How did you arrive at these?
7. What would your schedule say is your focus of life?
8. Think forward ten years: What is the most desirable trait you want your child or others you love & influence to possess?
9. Where did you see Jesus today? How can sharing this regularly as a family make a difference in what you focus on & pursue?

End your group time in prayer.