

No App For That

Life Group Lesson - Week of April 2

We live in a culture where it seems everyone wants to be a star. Too often we adopt the notion that somehow we are failing as parents if our children are not held in high honor and accolade at their private school—participating in the coolest extracurricular activities, sporting the latest fashion, making the highest grades, scoring the most points, and well-on-their-way to becoming, you got it, a star.

We strive tirelessly to set our children up for success, but we must take a moment and see the bigger picture. Are we preparing our children for Harvard or for Heaven? Do we want them to experience worldly success or a personal relationship with Christ? There is nothing wrong with success. But the next generation of world-changers will rise up from the power of Christ alive in the hearts of young men and women. That's something this world cannot give—there is no app for that.

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Moses tells the people, “Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you.” The people are about to cross over into Canaan and Moses knows their devotion and love for the Lord (and their fear of Him) will make the difference as they take the Promised Land. Moses knows the importance of passing God's ways to the next generation. It's by word and deed—day to day, moment by moment that God's people will influence their children to live a life of obedience.

1. Moses says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands...”(v5). In order to do this, what practical prescription does he give in vv 7-9?

What does this look like in today's world?

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-19

Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, soon to occupy towns they did not build. Moses said: “The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten you fill in this land, be careful not to forget the LORD who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt” (vv11-12). In other words, Israel, you are going to be successful, so do not forget the source of your success. It is not you. It is God!

2. Refusing to recognize God's goodness as our source of success is not only unwise, it is dangerous in the end, because fall into the trap of idolatry—self-worship (see Deuteronomy 8:11-20). Why does pride lead to destruction?

Name ways we can combat pride.

One way we can steer clear of the traps of self-worship is by remembering. Can you hear the urgency in Moses' voice: “Do not become proud... and forget the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. Do not forget that He led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors... He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant He confirmed to your ancestors with an oath” (Deuteronomy 8:14-18).

We too must remember. As followers of Christ we must never forget we have been bought with a high price. “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Our sin is ugly. Had the Lord Jesus not taken our place upon the cross, we would still be on our way to hell—all of us. Any success we enjoy is because of God's grace and goodness. Can we partner with the Lord to live into goals and dreams that honor Him? Sure we can. That's why Moses said choose life and all will go well. But we must never forget that every good and perfect gift originates not with us, but comes from above (James 1:17).

Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25

3. World-changers never forget where they came from. Any measure of success we have experienced to date should remind us of this one fact: we didn't get there alone. Who has helped you get to where you are today? In the space below, make a list of people who believed in you and helped you succeed.

Now, with an attitude of gratitude, how can you pay your success forward? Your success to date—be it large, medium, small (remember Heaven doesn't measure success the way we do)—can help others succeed in some area.

4. Who does the Lord bring to mind? What one or two steps can you take this week to help another person become a world-changer?

Remember that from generation to generation, the story of redemption must be told over and over again. Be bold. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share the story of Jesus with another individual. If you are serious about wanting to make a difference, the Lord will provide you with a platform, be it public or private, to share your faith in Christ. Be prepared (1 Peter 3:15). What an honor to introduce others to Christ!

"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children.

Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.

Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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Text: Deuteronomy 6:1-25

How do we raise a generation of World Changers?

1. World Changers are not created in _____ but they are created _____.
2. World Changers remain _____.
3. World Changers never forget to _____.

The Plain Truth

God is far more _____ in who you are _____ than He is in your _____.

One Year Bible Readings

Apr. 2: Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30, Luke 9:51-10:12, Psalm 74:1-23, Proverbs 12:11

Apr. 3: Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19, Luke 10:13-37, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 12:12-14

Apr. 4: Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26, Luke 10:38-11:13, Psalm 76:1-12, Proverbs 12:15-17

Apr. 5: Deuteronomy 28:1-68, Luke 11:14-36, Psalm 77:1-20, Proverbs 12:18

Apr. 6: Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20, Luke 11:37-12:7, Psalm 78:1-31, Proverbs 12:19-20

Apr. 7: Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27, Luke 12:8-34, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 12:21-23

Apr. 8: Deuteronomy 32:28-52, Luke 12:35-59, Psalm 78:56-64, Proverbs 12:24