



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

KEY POINT: Mothers can make a huge impact for the Kingdom by modeling a love for God to their children.

FOR LEADERS

- **Worship Night!** We're going to be hosting an outdoor Worship Night at our Totowa campus! Mark your calendars for May 16th!
- **Feedback:** Walking in discipleship together this past year during Pandemic has been CHALLENGING (to say the least)! Even so, the challenging seasons we've faced have opened new doors of opportunity for us together as a church. As we prayerfully consider what it means for discipleship to consider to flourish at Emergence, we would very much like to hear from our faithful leaders! When you have a moment, please head to www.emergencenj.org/feedback to let us know what your experience has been and to help provide insight as we plan for what's to come!

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video:** Watch this week's community extras video!
- [2] Icebreaker:** Who did the best thing for their mom this Mother's Day?
- [3] Opener:** What were your biggest takeaways from the sermon this week?

INTRODUCTION

The message this week highlighted how easy it is for us to get caught up in the busy, fast-paced, expectation-driven culture we live in and, at times, lose track of the "main thing" scripture calls us to as God's people. For mothers, especially, these expectations can be multiplied significantly with the added pressure from kids, fellow parents, teachers, family, etc.

- [1]** What are some of the ways that motherhood is portrayed in our culture? What do you think most people would say makes for a "good mother?"
- [2]** What are some of the values these cultural views are handing down to the next generation? What are they teaching about motherhood and life, and what are they perhaps leaving out?
- [3]** What is the most valuable thing your own mother handed down to you? What does it look like for you to honor her in this season of your life?
- [4]** If you're a mother, what is the biggest challenge you face as a mother today?

FIRST PRIORITIES

Ask for someone to read Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

- [5]** What do these two short verses teach us about God?
- [6]** Why do you think Jesus sighted this when asked about the "Greatest Commandment" in [Matt. 22:26-38, Mark 12:28-30, Luke 10:26-28]?
- [7]** What do you think this has to do with motherhood?

Ask for someone to read Luke 10:38-42



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- [8]** What is this story teaching us?
- [9]** How does this passage reflect the priority laid out for us in Deuteronomy 6:4-5?
- [10]** How can a mother display these values to her children? If you're not a mother, how can you love out these values in your own life?

TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY

Ask for someone to read Deuteronomy: 6:6-8.

- [11]** Why do you think this is the first thing instructed after the confession that God is one and the command to love him with all your heart?
- [12]** Notice that these commands should be on our "heart" before we're to teach them to our children. Why is this important? What does parenting (and all teaching) look like if we disregard this?

In the sermon, Ryan noted how teaching children "when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise," is a way of saying that this should be a natural rhythm in our lives.

- [13]** How can parents do this in a way that doesn't leave their kids resenting the things of God?
- [14]** Teaching can often slide into an emphasis on, "Do this and don't do that!" – often minimizing God's love, grace and forgiveness. What are some of the dangers of this? What are some creative ways we can teach children about God's love and grace?
- [15]** What are some practical ways we can make God's Word visible in our lives and homes?

WHEN THEY ASK YOU

Ask for someone to read Deuteronomy 6:20-25.

- [16]** What relevance do these passages today have for people who don't have children?
- [17]** How can we be ready to encourage children to be curious about the things of God?

PRAYER

- [1]** Pray specifically for a mother that you know!
- [2]** Take a minute to praise God for any specific things he's done through a mother in your life, and then pray for all our mothers at Emergence, that we would embody the passages we studied this week!