

# *it's complicated!*

Week 5 Member Guide

## *sermon recap: what did the text mean? what does it mean?*

In the message this week we learned parenting is our opportunity to pass on our faith to the next generation.

## *warm up*

- Get out your cell phones.
  - Without getting into politics, within 3 minutes, locate the 3 headlines that frighten you the most.
  - Share your headline and keep it up on your phone.
  - Project that headline into the future if current trends continue.
  - Picture your child being a future agent of change in reversing the projected trend.
  - Consider: What actions can I take now to prepare my child to be an agent of change?

## *the text: what does it mean for me?*

Deuteronomy 6:4-5:

*Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The Lord is one!*

*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

The overwhelming number of people in our society who don't love God creates a gravitational pull downward.

- What are some ways we feel the gravitational pull?

Thankfully, the next two verses *contain a strategy* to help parents prepare their children to help reverse this pull.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

*These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.*

*Repeat them to your children.*

*Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

- Can you see a three-phase strategy for the spiritual raising of children?
- According to this passage, who is tasked with the responsibility of coaching the next generation spiritually?
- When parents don't coach their children, who usually ends up training them instead?

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## *digging deeper*

Discuss some of the provided scenarios that children are facing today.

- Why do we tend to rely on the church to coach our children, instead of taking a personal, active role as parents?
- What are some of the reasons we are not more intentional in coaching our children spiritually?

On the paper provided, plot out a typical week, add the number of waking hours you are home with your children. Find the best time in your schedule to regularly train your children more formally.

Now, let's explore ways we can create special teaching opportunities at strategic times in our children's lives.

After watching the links from [rushcreek.org/faithpath](http://rushcreek.org/faithpath), answer the following questions:

- Which of these strategies spoke the most to you?
- If you were to apply that strategy in your home, what would it look like?

## *closing thought*

Be encouraged! Even though the gravitational pull is strong, God's Word is stronger!  
We can teach our children to overcome!