



LC STUDY GUIDE

“True Belonging: Home Edition”

The Passage: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

February 18 – March 3

How to use the LC Study Guide

Hello Leaders! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to pursue Christian community and the study of Scripture—study that leads to life transformation in Christ and strives to serve “the other.”

These studies have been designed with the following aspects in mind:

1. To facilitate a discussion on the passage of Scripture that was preached that particular Sunday using the Inductive Bible Study Method (not necessarily on the themes of that particular sermon). In summary, this method stresses “Observation” (what the reader can see from the text), “Interpretation” (what we can learn when we study the text with various tools, commentaries, and resources), and “Application” (how we can apply the Scripture to our lives).
2. Groups using this study range from the new leader to the highly experienced. Groups themselves have their own context. This study attempts to hit the middle. The stronger studies require about an hour or two of leader preparation to contextualize this resource to the needs and personalities of your group.
3. In addition to prep time, please spend time in prayer during preparation and before and after the study. It’s the power of the Holy Spirit that illuminates the Word of Scripture and we are humbled that He uses our combined efforts as part of this work. (For more tips on using this study, please see the endnotes.)

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do for the cause of Christ. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the LC Team

We near the end in our sermon series, “True Belonging: Home Edition,” and this week we look at the relationship of parents, children and the formation of faith.

There are a variety of narratives that we all enter throughout our life. God was blessing the children of Israel with the narrative of ordering their lives around the worship of the true and living God and imparting this wisdom to future generations.

Today, we want to consider what happens when each person is taught a narrative that invites them to center their lives around God.

¹ Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ² so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

O – Deuteronomy 6 is a familiar passage to many as it is often preached and written about. Try your best to look at it with fresh eyes. What words and ideas jump out at you? What resonates most?

I – It would be easy to miss the significance of verse 4 for modern day followers of Jesus but what do you think makes it profound at this point of Israel’s early history?
(The concept of a monotheistic God called Yahweh was “breaking news.” In contrast to the paganism and polytheism of Egypt and Canaan, Israel was going to be the first to believe in one God. Second, it serves as a call to unity.)

I – Moses’ preface to the “Shema” (verse 4; *shema* = *hear*) could be simply summarized as “There is one God, and you already know Him.” Then the command in verse 5 is given. Of all the things that could have been said, why does God direct Moses to begin here?
(The love of God is the foundation of obedience to the Lord, kindness and service to others and understanding of self.)

A – Why is it challenging for families, close friends, and other loved ones to talk about faith today? What can we do to overcome the hesitation to discuss these essential matters?

A – Following the “Shema,” Moses is giving both symbolic and practical instructions of when and how to love and how to grow in that love for God

(verses 6-8). How would we contextualize those verses today? (Or imagine how Moses would say it today.)

A – Jesus quotes the “Shema” in Mark 12:30-31 when he is asked what is the greatest of commands. In light of our conversation, imagine how life changes when we see ourselves as belonging to God in love and showing this love and belonging to others.

- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
- b. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?)
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
- e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching” rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.