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Week 7: Building Family Traditions and Routines

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord, your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

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**Day 2: Proverbs 22:6**

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

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**Day 3: Psalm 78:4-7**

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

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**Day 4: Ephesians 6:4**

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

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**Day 5: 2 Timothy 1:5**

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

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Discussion Questions:

**1.** Reflect on the analogy of childbirth and parenting. How does the statement "this is the easy part" resonate with your own experiences in parenting or caregiving?

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**2.**  The sermon emphasizes the importance of helping children recognize the "ONE voice" that has their best interests in mind. What practical steps can parents take to ensure their children hear this voice amidst the many other influences in the world?

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**3.** ReadDeuteronomy 6:4-9. Discuss the significance of the Shema as a confession of faith. How can this passage inform our daily lives and parenting practices?

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**4.** The sermon mentions four key moments for teaching children (mealtime, car rides, bedtime, and morning). Which of these moments do you find most effective in your own life, and why?

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**5.** The sermon suggests that acting out love can lead to genuine feelings of love. How can this principle be applied in family dynamics or relationships outside of parenting?

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6. The sermon notes that we live in a "hostile land" where many voices can be destructive. What are some specific challenges you face in raising children or influencing others in today’s culture?

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7. The metaphor of following the light is powerful. What are some practical ways you can keep your focus on God’s law and teachings in your daily life?

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8. How can the church or community play a role in supporting parents and families in their journey of raising children to be like Jesus?

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