

DISCIPLE-MAKING AT HOME: STARTING WITH HOW – PART 2

APRIL 22, 2020

In the first two articles of this “Disciple-making at Home” series, I have talked about the why and what of family devotion based on **Deuteronomy 6**. I will take a deeper dive into the nuts and bolts of the “what” today.



Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is known as the “*shema*” passage because of its emphasis on listening to God’s Word. The Hebrew word “shema” occurs 785 times in the Old Testament, and is usually translated to “**listen**.” In addition, the word is also translated to “obey” 89 times, and “understand” 9 times. Therefore, the meaning of listening in the Scriptures does not simply refer to the act of hearing or receiving the sound wave, but also includes using the mind to understand, and changing the heart to obey what is heard. Therefore, listening to God’s Word is a **3-step process involving the whole person: hearing the Word, understanding its meaning, and applying it.**

One important take-away is the centrality of application. In leading family devotion, you as parents need to practise these 3 steps. After reading a Bible passage together, you can engage the children by asking these questions for discussion:

- What does this passage tell me about God?
- What does this story tell me about man?
- If this is the truth, what change(s) would I have to make in my life?



Sharing the hurdles in applying the truth, and the joy, amazement and gratitude after applying it will encourage your whole family to continue to listen to and obey God.



To enrich the family devotion’s experiences, you could find a lot of resources online. For example, Focus on the Family Canada has set up a designated web page to help families to continue to grow spiritually and thrive at home: <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/covid-19>. The resources covers 4 different areas: Family Devotions, Parenting, Activities for kids, and Marriage. Also, family devotion can be fun, and you can check out these ideas for fun family activities: <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/fun-family-faith-activities/>.

To grow spiritually, you could check out the Pastor’s Corner (<https://emc.ecac.ca/pastors-corner/>) and JMC’s Devotions (<https://emc.ecac.ca/jmc-devotionals/>).

Please come back next week and continue our journey of Disciple-making at Home together: Starting with How – Part 3.