“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  

*Deuteronomy 6: 4-9*
Congrats on deciding to take on this route for you and your family. As on any journey, many people have different experiences, understandings, and speeds of travel. None of that is as important as the direction you are moving. We want to help. We are like the guy at the gas station. We want to help refuel you and your family, reassure that you are heading in the right direction, give you some good directions until the next stop, and give you a few snack ideas along the way.

On MONDAY we want to help chart the route that we will take during the week. We want to offer some videos that will be informative and sometimes entertaining. We will find some additional links to books articles, or videos that might be helpful. We may even offer little bits of insight to pass on as you are on route this week. You can do this!

Every TUESDAY we will introduce your family to the subject that you will be finding moments during the week to discuss. You want to shoot for 10-15 minutes. This doesn’t have to be a sit-down bible study, as much as a note card to guide discussion about something that you might not have considered that week. We want to set you up for success, make you the expert, the conversation initiator for a topic that we hope will continually be found in your family’s discussion for the week.

On WEDNESDAY we want to teach you to ask better questions. There are many types of questions and the ways that we ask, the words that we use, and the time that we give to think often determine the responses or lack of response that we give to one another. Take time to rethink the way we ask questions and choose to ask better questions.

THURSDAY is the day that we find out if our discussions are paying off. This is the day that your family will teach you. They can put together a 5-10-minute lesson as if it was the first time you have ever heard it. They can be creative and do skits, sing songs, role play. They can just explain like they are trying to tell a friend how to get to their house. When we are able to reteach, we display real understanding.

Finally, FRIDAY will be a fun day. We will give some activity ideas that will support what you’ve been learning all week. There may be times where these take a few minutes, some may take hours. Some may take place at home, some at the church, or somewhere adventurous. We will give you all the ideas for the supplies you need to create family memories. It will be through those moments where you will experience closeness and connection, where the investment you put in during the week, pays off for the weekend. This is where you put into practice real discipleship, as “God’s Word” and “as you walk” cross paths.
Verse of The Week

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Coaching

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hint: It’s good to read verses from a variety of versions of the Bible. Many times, it’s the differences in words that lets us turn the verse around in different ways to get a better understanding of what the Bible really says. There are a variety of websites that allow you to look at the same verse in different versions at the same time. One we use is biblegateway.com. The bible app will also allow you to do this.

*For example: Israel, listen! Our God is the LORD! Only the LORD! Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house’s doorframes and on your city’s gates.*

I like that I don’t have to prepare a lesson, I can teach my kids just by reciting faith stuff that I heard in a message, sang in a song, or read in a book. I don’t even have to sit them down or always schedule a specific time, but when I’m just sitting around, or walking through a store, or driving them to school.

Check out the video @ njbc.org/fdr

Challenge: As a family, come up with a list of skills, habits, interests, mannerisms, or things that define you as a family that you as parents never directly taught your kids. The idea is for you and them to understand that discipleship happens naturally.

Ex. What team you root for, the cleaning process after dinner, how you handle anger...

Here are a couple of other resources to check out:

YouTube search “the bible project the book of Deuteronomy”; Read – “Growing With: Every Parent’s Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future” by Karen Powell and Steven Argue
Devotion

Israel, listen! Our God is the LORD! Only the LORD! Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house’s doorframes and on your city’s gates.

These verses answer 2 big questions for our families, which is what we will talk about for the next 2 weeks. The first is what are we supposed to be learning and teaching? The answer is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." That is the curriculum. It’s not a few courses that lasts a month or two; it is a curriculum for a lifetime, that all centers around God, the beginning of everything we know to be real and our relationship to God, which is one of love, in other words, of trustful obedience.

So, our jobs are to point out the truth of God’s presence. More than His existence, but His activity of purpose and relationship that He brings to our world and to our lives. Moses uses a word for “ONE” which signifies at least three elements are put together to form one God. It’s a small word with a lot of significance that begs us to know Him more deeply. That is what love is. It is giving yourself to someone or something. What you love you give yourself to. The giving yourself is obedience. When you love God, you give yourself to him, you obey him, you trust him and obey what he says.

Loving God doesn’t always involve some kind of feeling of affection, though we can have experiences like that. We call that worship -- when we are simply overcome by the greatness of God and we feel an enormous sense of gratitude toward him. But that isn’t all of what love is. Love is trustful obedience. It is doing what he says. That is the natural outgrowth of love. Our responsibility is to give our self wholeheartedly -- heart, soul, and strength -- to the directions from the mind and heart of God. That is how we will discover life to be the way it ought to be.

This passage goes on to tell us where to begin. It says that the place to start is with the parents. And right at this very point many Christian homes go astray. The moment a child appears in their family a lot of parents succumb to the natural temptation to live for their children. They take over time, energy, and attention. That must come from somewhere and often it takes away from our own pursuit of God and love of Him. It is teaching us that parents do not exist for their children; they exist to be people before God, first of all. You cannot lead effectively to places you have not been.

Family Challenge: Write down your agenda for a typical day from the time you wake up until you go to bed. Find 3 places in a typical day where you have time to spend together as a family talking about God.
**Ask Better Questions**

There are plenty of different ways to ask questions. Often the ways we ask will determine the length, depth, and heart of a response. Let’s start with questions about what they wonder and their opinions.

Questions to ask your student:

1. Do you ever wonder if God is real? What do you think it would take to convince a person God is real?
2. Who do you think is the easiest person you know to talk to? Why do you think that is?
3. Do I do things that might keep you from sharing some things that you think about?

Questions to ask your parents:

1. How did you come to a place where you believed God was real? What convinced you?
2. What ways do you feel like you show you love God?
3. Is there anything that I do that makes you feel like I don’t want to talk?

Don’t just repeat the questions, learn the pattern of how to ask questions. It will make for more and better conversations.

**Kids Led Devotion**

It’s the students time to teach. This is an easy one today. Student, read back over the verse for the week. There will be some words that really jump out at the way you are walking or should be walking with God. So just teach back what you’ve learned this week, not just in your lesson on Tuesday but in the questions yesterday and what jumped out at you reading through today.

Here’s a few questions to bring up to ask your parents?

• What do think he means when he says he is The Lord?
• What is something we aren’t doing that we could be doing to show God we love him with all our Heart?... Soul?... Might?

**Family Time**

Family Activity: Uno - Play a few hands of Uno with a few rule changes.

• no stacking draws • you must sing Uno before you lay down
• you must finger gun and wink at the player you skip when laying down a skip
• anytime a wild/draw 4 is played you need to say one thing you have learned about God from experience

Hint: The idea is to learn to weave Godly conversations in the middle of stuff we do all the time and that is fun. Don’t ignore this part, it’s the point.