



SDG Discussion Guide

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

April 8, 2018

For starters:

Share a fond childhood memory of your parents or a significant adult. What makes this special for you?

As a child or young adult, what was one lesson you were taught by an adult for which you are most grateful today?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the entire chapter six in your group. If you can, read it aloud a second time. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. For whom and for what are the commandments and decrees intended? Why do you think Moses keeps emphasizing these points?
2. In the context of her surrounding nations, what is meant by "The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (v 4)? How is verse 5 related to the first four commandments (see 5:7-15)?
3. Why such a strong emphasis on teaching these laws and decrees to children (6:6-9, 20-25)? How would you characterize this method of teaching? Why might this method be best suited to the task? How do these verses support the assertion of verse 5?
4. Why is Moses apprehensive (vv 10-16)? How would the instructions in verse 1-9 help alleviate Moses' fears?
5. What is the essence of the story recounted in verses 20-25? What meaning does this story give to the commands and decrees?
6. How do you demonstrate your love for God? How does this fulfill verse 5?
7. Do you have more trouble recalling God's role in your life during times of failure, or in success? How is this a reflection of Moses' fears in vv 10-16? What can you do to combat this tendency?
8. In what ways is God responsible for the successes you have had in life? How do you know this?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see around the content of this passage. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to stir you and give you insight into your life as to what it means to both receive love and to give it.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).