

STUDY GUIDE

August 31

STAY IN THE LOOP

Announcements



- Starting September 14, we're back to two services - 9am and 10:30am. We'd love to see you at the time that works best for you! (Kemptville)
- Sign up to be an Alpha Volunteer! We need you! Many different positions available from front line to behind the scenes! (Winchester)

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt

Praise God for the gift of children and the privilege of influencing the next generation in their faith journey. Ask God for wisdom and intentionality as parents, grandparents, and mentors to use the time we have well. Ask God to strengthen our church family so that together we can help raise up kids and teens who will love and follow Jesus for a lifetime.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

Proverbs 22:6

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Psalm 78:4-7

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Read *Proverbs 22:6*. In what ways do you feel equipped or unequipped as a parent (or spiritual influence), and how does this verse encourage or challenge you?
2. *Deuteronomy 6:5-7* calls parents to teach their children diligently about God. How do you see the balance between what the church provides (the 7.5 "gumballs") and what parents provide at home? Where do you think we sometimes expect the church to do what God calls parents to do?
3. In your opinion, what is the greatest threat to kids' faith today - cultural influences, peers, media, or something else? How does the sermon's point - that we as parents may be the biggest influence - shift the way we think about responsibility?
4. *Deuteronomy 6* describes faith conversations happening in everyday life - "when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down, and when you rise." What are some creative, practical ways we can weave faith naturally into our daily rhythms at home?
5. Even if you don't have kids at home, *Deuteronomy 6* calls all God's people to pass on faith. What are some ways you can intentionally invest in the next generation - whether through mentoring, serving, encouragement, or simply building relationships with kids and teens in the church?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. **Be intentional daily.** Look for natural moments to talk about God with your kids - at meals, in the car, at bedtime. Don't wait for "perfect" family devotions; weave faith into ordinary life. (*Deut. 6:6-7*)
2. **Leverage the phase your child is in.** Identify what phase your child (or the kids you influence) is currently in, and ask: "What

unique opportunities does this season give me to shape their faith?"

Then take one small step this week to engage intentionally in that phase.

3. **Partner with the church.** Recognize that the church only has a limited number of "gumballs" (time) with your kids. Commit to working alongside the church by prioritizing consistent involvement, resourcing your kids with what's sent home, and modeling faith at home.