



Small Group **Discussion Notes**

For use the week following the message, "24: Family Life" (Jan. 26-27)

1. Open in prayer.
2. (Go around the room, ask everyone to answer briefly) As a child, what was one lesson you were taught (on purpose or by accident) by an adult for which you are grateful today?
3. This past weekend's message was "24: Family Life," by Bob Hostetler. Can anyone summarize what you remember of the message for the others?
4. In this past weekend's message, Bob referred to Deuteronomy 6:6-7. We're going to study the larger passage those verses come from.
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.
6. Verses 1-3 specify at least four good reasons Moses gives for obeying the commands of God. Can you identify all four? What are they?
7. NOTE: Verse 4 is called "The Shema" by Jews (and it is recited by them daily). The word "shema" is simply the Hebrew word that begins this verse, the word that is translate into English as "Hear."
8. Why do you think verse 4 might be phrased the way it is? In other words, why do you think it says, "The LORD our God, the LORD is one," instead of simply, "The LORD our God is one?"
9. The Shema (v. 4) is followed by six separate and straightforward commands. Can you identify all six? What are they?
10. What do you think is the relationship between the first commandment (v. 5) and the second command (v. 6)?
11. What do you think is the relationship between the second command (v. 6) and those that follow in vv. 7-9?
12. How would you characterize the method of teaching children that is commanded in vv. 7-9? How might such a method of teaching reflect obedience to the command of v. 5?

13. Why do you think God commanded the people to “tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads” and “write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates?”
14. Do you think these verses apply to you and your family life? If not, why not; if so, how?
15. In what ways does your family life today reflect obedience to these commands? In what areas can you plan for improvement?
16. Any other questions or comments?
17. Close in prayer.