

**SERIES:** To Raise a Family

**SERMON 1:** "The Relationship is Everything"

**TEXT:** Deuteronomy 6:5-7

**DATE:** May 7/8, 2016

### **The Relationship is Everything**

This is a series about how all of us in this church family play a role in \_\_\_\_\_ kids and students to live life on mission for God.

God doesn't want the next generation in our church to simply get into \_\_\_\_\_; he wants them to love him and be on mission for him now and for the rest of their lives.

Joe White: "I'll stop here to repeat the words of a friend that changed my parenting focus forever: The relationship is everything. (During times of fatigue and stress, I've repeated it over and over to myself a thousand times.) The relationship is everything. The relationship is everything."

The strength of your relationship with your kids will be the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ in your spiritual legacy.

### **Family Application**

1. Leverage the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

Take advantage of the moments of connection that \_\_\_\_\_ happen.

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ your life.

I \_\_\_\_\_ life means that you are you. This creates vulnerability that naturally creates connection.

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with your family.

We teach our children how to parent by \_\_\_\_\_ and we teach family by doing family together.

As we walk with Jesus, he leverages the rhythms of our lives as points of connection to his \_\_\_\_\_ and as opportunities for a deeper relationship with Him.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Who were some of the people who have helped shape your faith in Christ, especially early on in your faith story? Be prepared to share with your group how your relationship with one of them impacted you.
3. God didn't call an army; he called a people to be his family. Jesus didn't set up a classroom or school; he called folks to follow and be with him. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 and 2:11-12 describe Paul's relationship with a church he founded. How does Paul's description underscore that the relationship is everything when it comes to passing on a spiritual legacy?
4. What are some of the ways the people in our congregation play a key role in nurturing faith in the next generation?
5. As you read Deuteronomy 6:5-7, what is one "when" that you would like to be more intentional about this week (as a parent or as you influence others toward Christ or growth as disciples of Christ)?
6. Of the three "Family Application" points, which one was most impacting for you or your kids (in your estimation) in passing on a spiritual legacy?
7. How does Jesus leverage the rhythms of our lives as points of connection to his story and as opportunities for a deeper relationship with Him.
8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?