

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 9/3/2023

### For you as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

**Quick Review** Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

**Opener Question or Activity:** What was the hardest thing you can remember about being a child? If you're a parent, what was the hardest thing about parenting?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:1-4

**Digging Deeper:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question.)*

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 together.

1. What are vs. 1-3 saying, in your own words? Try not to use any of the words from the text in explaining what this passage says.
2. How would you explain to a friend your objective in parenting is to teach children to "fear the Lord your God...by keeping all His decrees and commands..."? How would a non-believing world respond to this?
3. What are the examples of ways good parenting impacts a society? What are the examples of this you can point to today?
4. How could you engage non-Christians who hear this teaching, or others like it from Scripture(Proverbs 22:6, 15, Colossians 3:20, Ephesians 6:1), and would doubt or question its validity? Discuss ways to have healthy discussions.
5. Re-read vs. 6-9. How do you follow through, in our day and age, with implementing these things? Are you to really tie them on your hands and foreheads, and doorframes of your homes?
6. Read Malachi 2:15 Why or why not should you raise godly children intentionally or allow them to develop their own faith by chance?

**Apply it today:** Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?