

Study Guide

Monday, August 2 – Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. As we look at the early believers, the Hebrews, we understand they were extremely successful at making their **faith** an integral part of life. The reason for their success was that religious education was life-oriented, not information-oriented. They used the context of daily life to teach about God. The key to teaching your children to love God is stated simply and clearly in these verses. If you want your family to follow God, you must make God a part of your everyday experiences. How did you do yesterday? How will you do today?

Tuesday, August 3 – “A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense.” (Proverbs 24:3) This passage is obviously not speaking of a physical structure but the family structure. Couldn't we say that “good sense” could mean understanding? Are we taking the time in our families to really understand each other? Does one person seem to have all the right answers and everyone else must bow down to them? A STRONG family must include mutual **understanding**. Parents should seek to understand their child's point of view and even children should be able to understand the responsibility parents carry with them each day. What is your house being built on?

Wednesday, August 4 – Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. Wouldn't we love to know how everything in our life turns out? Wouldn't we love to know why certain things happen in our life? Our lives are filled with transitions. Some we know are coming, some we don't. How do you approach those times? The bottom line is trust. We must trust that God is working in and through our lives to bring us closer to Him and using us to spread His love and mercy.

Thursday, August 5 – Read Psalm 139:14. David opens this Psalm by acknowledging that God knows everything about him. And God does know each of us by name and by deeds. Our verse today reminds us that we are **unique**. God could have made many of us the same, but there is NO ONE that is the same as another. What difference does this make for us? If we are all unique then we need to recognize this and celebrate it within our families. We shouldn't want mini versions of ourselves. We hope that our good qualities might be emulated by our children, but they must be free to be themselves. Our spouses can't be what we want them to be, they need to be who God made them to be. Our responsibility is not to change others around us but to love and accept them and encourage them to emulate the only one worthy – Jesus Christ.

Friday, August 6 – Read Ephesians 6:1-4. How many times have we heard someone say that “young people just don't respect their elders anymore?” **Respect** is a two-way street and it begins at home. Paul outlines what respect should look like in the home. Both parents and children have a responsibility to practice respect. Both parents and children should act in a way that each will respect them. Are you doing your part?

Saturday, August 7 – Read John 17:15. Jesus' prayer is a prayer for all of us. His prayer is for us to acknowledge that we are part of the world (the **environment**) – we can't do anything about that. But, to stay away from evil – that we have some control over. Parents are responsible for keeping their children out of harms way. How far are you going? Do you stop at the obvious ones – drugs and alcohol? Or do you include matters of the heart?