

- 6) In what practical ways can you engage your children in discussions about faith, integrating it into various aspects of their lives? If you don't have children, what practical ways can you engage friends, family, coworkers in discussions about faith?
- 7) Are there principles in Deuteronomy that you could incorporate into your daily life that you are not currently doing?
- 8) One of the things that is in serious need in our world is encouragement. So many people are discouraged and in need of kind encouraging words. What is encouragement, how do we define it?
- 9) To encourage someone, you have to be looking for things to encourage. This means we need God's eyes to see things that are praiseworthy and not encourage things that lead to harm. What are some ways we can learn to see more clearly things to encourage in (our children) people?
- 10) We know that perfect is impossible but better is possible. In the passage above we see the principle of loving God first and then loving others. This idea has been a theme in the last weeks of the study. How are you applying it in your life?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and pray through the following questions.

- 1) Are there things I'm doing that are hurting my children? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.
- 2) How can I better provide a community worth having? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.
- 3) How can I better inspire a standard worth achieving. Stop, start, hold on in faith for.
- 4) How can I better encourage a faith worth sharing? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.

The Pursuit of Better

Parenting—Inspired by Craig Groeschel
Pastor Craig Sweeney | February 4, 2024

“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.” **Matthew 7:9 – 11 NLT**

Thread: The pursuit of perfection isn't possible, but better always is.

Three things we give our children that hurt them:

- 1) Giving them REWARDS they did not earn
 - Creates entitlement
- 2) Giving them PRAISE they don't deserve
 - Undermines their confidence and fuels insecurity, because they know its hollow and undeserved.
- 3) Giving them FREEDOMS they can't handle
 - Sets them up to fail

“Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9 NLT

Three gifts to our children:

- 1) A community worth having
 - Who your kids spend time with, is who they are becoming.

“Oh Israel...And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 – 6 NLT

- WHO influences your children?
- WHICH examples do you put in front of your children?

How do I navigate that?

- Which people undermine intentionally or unintentionally our desire to walk with Jesus?
- Who encourages my children to walk with Jesus?

“Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.” Proverbs 13:20 NLT

“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?” Mark 8:36 – 37 NLT

2) A standard worth achieving

- What is the goal of parenting?

“...love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5 NLT

3) A faith worth sharing

- This starts with us

“Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:7 – 9 NLT

Challenge:

-Are there things I’m doing that are hurting my children? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.

-How can I better provide a community worth having? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.

-How can I better inspire a standard worth achieving? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.

-How can I better encourage a faith worth sharing? Stop, start, hold on in faith for.

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resources

Life Group Homework

The Pursuit of Better (Parenting)

Winter 2024 | Week 4

Message Date 2/4/2024

MY STORY

- 1) If you could replace the lead actor in a movie with a vegetable, which movie and which vegetable would you choose and why?
- 2) Would you rather have an unlimited gift card to a restaurant or a clothing store?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

I recognize that many of us are in different places with regard to parenting. Some of us have no children, some of us have various ages of kids, some with adult children, and many are grandparents.

- 4) One of the things Pastor Craig talked to us about is creating a community worth having. No matter the stage of life I am in with regard to having children, what can I do to help foster a community worth leaning into for children?
- 5) What are things that you can be praying for with regard to the influence you have?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NLT)

4 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. 6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.