

Being a Household of Faith

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 29th, 2022



Sermon Title: Being a Household of Faith

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-12; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:13-14

Sermon Focus: There are startling statistics which show that those who grew up in the church are dropping out as young adults and leaving the faith of their parents behind. Why is this happening? While there may be a handful of reasons why young people are exiting the church today, it is clear that parents and churches are failing to properly form our children and equip them to navigate a secular world. In *Being a Household of Faith*, Pastor David shares how we can be intentional in our response.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-12 together. Moses is telling the people of God that if they don't embrace regular religious habits, practices, and routines, then they will return to the way of Egypt—idolatry, slavery, oppression, etc. Why are these things so important in passing on faith? How have you seen the lack of spiritual formation negatively impact the people of God today? What idols and forms of slavery do you see today due to our failure to properly form disciples?
2. The word "religious" is commonly used in a pejorative way today, and many Christians shun regular religious practices, but Jesus was a religious Jew (e.g., raised by pious parents, went to synagogue regularly, took pilgrimages to Jerusalem, worshipped in the Temple every Passover, he would have recited the Shema, and he fasted, tithed, prayed at certain times, and wore a prayer shawl with tassels, etc.). Therefore, what Jesus condemned was *false* religion that amounted to a show (hypocrisy) but did not transform the heart. Does this encourage or challenge your concept of being a religious Christian?
3. Pastor David said that religious practices are meant to orient our hearts to Christ and the gospel, i.e., aim our desires and loves toward God and his purposes. Share some examples of how you've experienced this through habits, rituals, and routines in your own life. Also, how is God inviting you to be more intentional in embracing routines in your family or in your personal walk?
4. In his sermon, Pastor David shared these simple family practices that research shows are commonalities among 18–29-year-olds who *stayed* in the church and didn't leave the faith of their parents. Discuss each of these:
 - Ate dinner 5 of 7 nights a week as a family
 - Served *with* their families in a faith-based ministry
 - Were entrusted with significant responsibility in a ministry at a young age
 - Had at least one significant spiritual experience in the home during the week (e.g., family devotions, table conversations, etc.)
 - Had at least one adult in their lives, other than their parents, who believed the same thing as their parents (e.g., mentor, teacher, etc.)

Why do you think each of these have such a tremendous impact on our faith?

5. If you're a parent with a young family, how did God speak to you through this message? For all others, how did the Spirit speak to your heart?