



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC God in Our Families (Lessons from Deut 6)

SPEAKER Elder Lok Vi Ming

THEME Family Relationships

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the children of Israel stood on the mountain and finally saw, in the distance, the Promised Land. With the task of building a new future and fulfilling the promise of God to deliver Israel from Egypt, Moses called the Israelites' attention to The Greatest Commandment (Deut 6:1-5). This, so that their days may not only be prolonged and filled with blessings, but also be an act of thanksgiving for His presence in their lives and His providence for their needs.

This week, Elder Lok Vi Ming (eLVM) shared with us three lessons that Moses spoke of – lessons that we, as (spiritual) parents, should teach the next generation for the light of God to shine.

THREE LESSONS FROM MOSES

1. LOVE GOD FERVENTLY (DEUT 6:4-5)

The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness as a punishment for idolising other gods and lacking faith in Him. However, God continued to bring miracles after miracles to provide Israel with necessities to survive the desert. With such a loving God, it is especially important that the children of Israel **hear** and **understand** Moses' speech: To know that the LORD our God is one, and we shall love Him with all our hearts, souls, and strengths.

Indeed, we need to always "**hear**" first – to be aware of the issues around us so as to provide relevant and effective responses. For example, the LGBT agenda is not simply about the right to love – the issue is that it is uprooting traditional values and family relationships. If this agenda becomes universally accepted, it will lead to very serious consequences that will be borne by the churches and adversely affect Christians' right to worship. In the U.S., we already see some of these consequences; the existence of transgender restrooms destroying the concept of gender. In the economic realm, pro-LGBT companies threatened to boycott states with anti-LGBT laws and employees are forced to resign for not subscribing to the LGBT agendas. We see schools teaching children about LGBT and pro-LGBT companies refusing to sell their products to non-LGBT subscribers as well as ministers being forced to perform same-sex weddings or face jail time.

In Singapore, we are already seeing organisations stepping up their activism on LGBT issues. Although our Government's stand is that Singapore is still conservative, it is implying that there is a possibility Singapore will gradually come to be more inclusive. The LGBT agenda will ultimately affect us if we as Christians continue to tolerate it and do not stand up for our beliefs.

2. TEACH HIS WAYS DILIGENTLY

- **Teach Obedience.** In every season of our lives, we should diligently teach the ways of the LORD and impress them upon our children (Deut 6:6-9), that they may grow to be obedient to Him, know Him deeply, and make godliness their instinctive response. This is so that when they face trials in life, their natural instinct will be to seek God and trust in Him. Therefore, it is important that we not only teach our children obedience, we should also carry the statutes and precepts of God's love with us as a reminder of His Commandments, so that our children will learn to stay true to the values and Word of God in all circumstances.
- **Teach Gratitude.** Deut 6:10-12 is especially critical to us and our children, that we remember that all the blessings we have today comes from God. Prosperity can breed complacency, contempt, and apostasy in the next generation. Hence, we need to teach our children gratitude, less they forget that what they have today are all because of God's grace. Share with them God's work in our lives, and teach them diligently out of a sense of gratitude.

3. EXPLAINING HIS FAITHFULNESS CONSCIENTIOUSLY

When our children question the importance of learning about God, explain to them His faithfulness conscientiously, like how Moses did in Deut 6:20-24. He shared that in time to come, the children should proclaim to their children Israel's testimony of how God **redeemed** her from the bondage of Egypt, making miracles with His almighty power that even the pharaoh of Egypt could not deny, and being **faithful** to them by giving them the land that He promised to their forefathers. In the same way, we should relate to our children how we came to a personal relationship with Jesus as a testimony for them to understand. We also ought to be careful with our words, actions, and attitudes, for children are observant learners. Hence, we need to model well for them, knowing that what we say or do will have a strong impact on their lives.

We need to build our **convictions** about the God we are testifying and pass these on to our children. In Joshua 24, when the children of Israel expressed their conviction to serve the LORD, knowing that there will be sacrifices to make, Joshua made a covenant with them, with a rock as the witness and reminder of their promise to serve the LORD. In the same way, we need to have the same conviction that the children of Israel had, always reminding ourselves of our promises to serve the LORD and raise up children who would do the same.

BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In John 15:4-11, the word “remain” appears many times, which gives us something to ponder about: When things turn rough and we face situations of despair and desperation, will we choose to remain in God, or disobey and stray from Him? What will our children choose? God calls us to be the light of the world (*Matt 5:14-15*), to shine before others so that they may be prompted to open up to God. Hence, when things turn rough, our light will not be snuffed out by the darkness – instead, it will shine to dispel darkness!

Deut 6 is a call to obedience as an evidence of our love for God, and also to minister and reach out to the world through the continuation of the practice and confession of faith from generation to generation. Hence, as we impress the LORD’s commands on our children and imprint them with His Word, teach them (and also ourselves) to let the light of God shine brightly wherever they (we) are so as to give light to all around them (us)!

QUESTIONS

The speaker shared three steps for us to ensure that God is at the centre of our family. What are these three steps?

Deut 6:7 tells us to impress God's commandments on our children – to talk about them when we sit at home, when we walk along the road, when we lie down and get up. What are some challenges you face in living out this verse, and why?

Who are the people in your life that God is calling you to testify to? How can you live your life as a living testimony to these people of God's goodness in your life?