

## PARENT PAGES

### *A Growing Christian makes the Best Parent*

#### **Providing and Christian Environment**

Deuteronomy 6 is a follow-up of the giving of the Ten Commandments in chapter 5. Chapter 6 shows how the commandments are more than a cold set of rules. They are meant to help God's people in their association with Him and with each other. Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Shows how God laid out the teaching of the faith by parents.

**<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

These verses are known as the Shema, which is the Hebrew word for "hear." Observant Jews still say the Shema (a statement of doctrine of the unity of God) twice each day, as a part of their morning and evening prayers. Going to the Lord several times a day especially meditating on a part of God's Word is a good model for today's parents.

Below are some explanations about individual verses that provide helpful ideas for parenting:

V-6 – The Commandments are more than just the 10 Commandments. They would include the promises of God for His people in the future. For us it means to teach the Scriptures and all that is in them

V-7 – The word "impress" means that God's commands should become a part of us like a vaccination would go through the whole body to protect it from disease.

V-7 – To "talk about them" shows that the commandments were to be the subject of conversation on all fitting occasions between family members and even casual associates. The rest of the verse points out that there really isn't any place they cannot be the focus of family conversation. This would include bedtime prayers.

V-8 – To "tie them as symbols on your hands" is an illustration that it is time to do something because "hands" means an instrument of acting."

– To "bind them on your forehead" means that they are foremost in mind because the "forehead" is symbolized as the chamber of thought and purpose.

Wearing Christian jewelry is one way of accomplishing the suggestions in verse 8

V-9 Having crosses and pictures in our homes is like “writing them on the doorframes of your houses and gates.” The reason for doing this is that they can be seen at all times and that would constantly keep them in view and mind.

- Review to see how many of the Deuteronomy verses you are already doing.
- Think about ways to do even more of them.

Listed below are a few possibilities that are available for your spiritual maturing. Many of these resources are from Concordia Publishing House. (800-325-3040) Ask your pastor(s), child’s principal or teacher for information on these and other materials.

**Getting Ready for Next Sunday** – Weekly study of upcoming Gospel lesson – ([genesbrunotes.com](http://genesbrunotes.com))

***Portals of Prayer (Journal)***

Each devotion features a Bible reading, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format. *Portals of Prayer* is great for personal devotions.

***Happy Times (Journal)***

If children could format a magazine, *Happy Times* would be it. Bible-based stories, colorful activity pages, and special projects are the mainstays of this monthly magazine targeted for 3- to 5-year-olds. A "Grown-ups Page" offers helpful and fun ideas for parents to encourage family time and Bible learning.

***My Devotion (Journal)***

Encourage 8- to 12-year-olds to build a habit of daily Bible reading at home! *My Devotions* is an excellent resource that points children to the Word through stories and situations to which they can relate. Each devotion page includes a Scripture reading, true-to-life story, and short prayer.

***Blessing and Prayers for Parents (Book)***

For parents of all ages with children of all ages, *Blessings and Prayers for Parents* points readers to our Heavenly Father as the only perfect parent and speaks to parents’ need to hear God’s specific words of forgiveness and grace.

You may also go to [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) and search for “Parenting Materials” and find many other possibilities.