

Faith Across Generations

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BIG IDEA

Collective stories carry faith farther than individual lectures ever will.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 6: 1-2, 4-9
Psalm 46:10, John 10:14

1. Within the gospels, Jesus is not just teaching and then remaining silent while traveling. Jesus is said to be teaching "along the way". Read Luke 9:57-62 and discuss the "along the way" conversations that pop up. What is the significance of the time and place of these seemingly unplanned chats?
2. What do you consider a great lesson you learned "along the way" in your life that you hold onto each day? What learning did you gain in a seemingly random interchange that shaped your life?
3. Each day you are a testimony of God's faithfulness. Do you believe that? What impact does your testimony have -- in your family at home, at work, in your community? Does your extended family know your story?
4. A lot of people downplay their story as uninteresting, not dramatic, not worthy of sharing, unintentionally downplaying the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Is there someone in your life who claims their story as unimportant? How can you encourage that person? What will you do this week to help them flourish in their kingdom calling?
5. "Faith is not explained into the heart, it is experienced." What does that statement mean to you? How are our minds and hearts involved in acquiring and blooming in their faith?
6. Psalm 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God" What do think is the intention of this verse? What might it mean to someone else, in their context? Does the culture we live in reject or accept these words? If so, how?
7. Read through Deuteronomy 6 and consider the reminders, the warnings, and commands that God gives to His people. What is God's motivation in this calling to live faithfully, and what are the basic instructions for us to heed and apply? What's the risk if we choose to ignore the Word? What does the Lord bring to the surface in your heart? Share.
8. Deuteronomy 6:4-6 is the foundation for handing faith down to the next generation around the table. Notice that God calls them to experience something and teach it in real time rather than merely acquiring facts about God and telling someone else. Where are you at when it comes to loving God the way it's described here (**all** your heart, **all** your soul, **all** your strength). How would you describe your own experience in loving God like this?
9. We recall that God's love is something we receive by His grace, not something we earn. Is it difficult to embrace this? Read through Romans 8:31-39, considering the great love God has for us -- the One who invites us to love Him back. What are some negative thoughts/habits that can hang us up and thus make it difficult to receive God's love in the depths of our heart? What might get in the way of the next generation embracing God's love and loving him back?
10. Commit to praying for the next generation -- lifting up our kids, grandkids, and the church as a whole as we do the intentional work together of teaching the gospel along the way as we're seated at the table.

