NOTES

SERIES TAKEAWAY

What you're rooted in decides how you weather the season you're in.

EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

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Week 2: Built in the Family

OPENING PRAYER

Father, you are the one true God, and you're worthy of all our love. Speak to us today. Plant your Word deep in our hearts so it can grow in our homes.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's one family tradition, recipe or saying that's been handed down to you? Where did it come from?

WORD

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2 Timothy 1:5

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Supporting:
Psalm 68:6
Mark 3:34–35
Romans 11:17

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS

Deuteronomy 6 is Moses speaking to a new generation standing at the edge of the Promised Land. Their parents had seen the Red Sea part. These people hadn't. So the question hanging over the whole book is simple: how does faith survive into the next generation? Moses starts with the Shema ("Hear, O Israel"), which Jewish families have prayed morning and evening for thousands of years. Before giving any instruction about children, it sets out who God is: the LORD is one. Then it says how we respond: love him with all your heart, soul and might. Jesus called this the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29–30). Love comes first. Rules come after. You can't pass on what you don't have.

Then Moses gets very ordinary. These words are to be on your heart first, and then you talk about them when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. That covers the whole day. Faith isn't handed over in one formal lesson. It soaks in over a thousand small moments. The doorposts and gates (vv. 8–9) carry it past private devotion into the life of the household, so it shows in how the home runs and what a visitor sees when they walk in.

Centuries later, Paul reminds Timothy that his "sincere faith" lived first in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Tim 1:5). Timothy's father was a Greek, so it seems faith reached Timothy through two women who were faithful in everyday life, like a family recipe passed down from one kitchen to the next.

This is good news for every kind of household. Some of us grew up in homes full of faith. Many of us didn't. Some are single, widowed, in blended families, or living in a full multigenerational house in Logan with three languages around the dinner table. The Bible doesn't leave anyone out. "God settles the solitary in a home" (Ps 68:6), and Jesus pointed at the people around him and said that whoever does the will of God is his brother, sister and mother (Mark 3:34–35). Like a branch grafted into a new tree (Rom 11:17), many of us were brought into God's family. Now every home, and every life, can become a place where roots are planted.

Key Reflections

1. **Love before lessons.** The Shema starts with who God is and with loving him, and it gets to instructions later. Faith that's only rules won't last. Take your next step towards loving God, not just doing more for him.
2. **Fit your own mask first.** On a plane, you secure your own oxygen before helping anyone else. Spiritually, you can't give what you aren't breathing. Guard your own time with God this week.
3. **Discipleship happens on the drive to school.** It also happens over dinner and at bedtime. The ordinary moments do most of the shaping. Look for one everyday moment this week and turn it towards God.
4. **Your home preaches.** How you forgive, how you spend and how you welcome guests all say something about God. Ask yourself: what would a visitor learn about Jesus from my home?
5. **Every culture has doorposts.** What's on the walls, what's said before meals and how elders are honoured are all ways faith becomes visible. Make your traditions point to Christ.
6. **No one is left out of the family.** Single, widowed, blended, or the first believer in your family: God sets the lonely in families. Your story doesn't disqualify you. It makes you a planting ground.
7. **Grafted in, fully belonging.** A grafted branch becomes completely part of the new tree. That's what God's family is like. You belong, and you can help someone else belong too.

MAIN REFLECTION POINTS

Gospel Invitation

Come to the one true God. The Shema calls us to love God with everything. If your heart has been divided, or you've never given it to Jesus, tonight is the time to turn back and surrender.

Receive your place in the family. Through Jesus, you can be grafted into God's family, fully and permanently, whatever your background. Trust him and come home.
Let him write his Word on your heart. Ask God to make his love the first thing in you, ahead of performance or duty, so there's something real to pass on.

Missional Activation

Choose one "doorpost" practice this week: a meal-time question ("Where did you see God today?"), a bedtime blessing, or a weekly family prayer. Keep it simple and do it every day.

If you don't have children at home: pick one younger person (a niece or nephew, a young adult in church, a uni student, a workmate) and choose one way to invest in them this week, such as a coffee, a message of encouragement, or a prayer together. Open your door. Have someone over for a meal this week, especially someone who's lonely, new to Logan or far from family. Let your home show them what God's family looks like.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to childhood, or to a mentor if you didn't grow up with faith. What's one small, everyday moment that shaped how you see God? Why do you think it stuck?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4–5. Why do you think God starts with who he is and loving him before he gives any instructions about teaching children?
3. The oxygen mask illustration says you can't pass on what you don't have. What does "fitting your own mask" look like for you in this season? What tends to crowd it out?
4. Verses 6–7 cover sitting, walking, lying down and rising. Which of those everyday moments is most natural for you to bring faith into? Which feels hardest?
5. Read 2 Timothy 1:5. Who has been a "Lois or Eunice" for you? Who might you be that for?
6. Doorposts and gates are meant to make faith visible. If a visitor spent a week in your home, what would they learn about God from how you forgive, spend and treat guests? Is there anything you'd want to change?
7. (Going deeper) Some of us carry pain from the homes we grew up in, or feel we don't fit the "family" picture. How do Psalm 68:6 and Mark 3:34–35 speak to that? What would it mean for you to receive God's family, and to be family for someone else?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, you are one, and we love you. Fill our hearts first, so our faith overflows into our homes, our tables and our ordinary days. Make every one of our homes a place where roots go down deep, and settle the lonely among us in your family.