

Family Connection

"Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart; love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates." Deut. 6:5-9—The Message Version

In our commitment to come alongside of families and partner with them in the discipling (training up) process of their children, we are providing a unique opportunity this summer through our 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship hour that we believe will have a great impact on parents, their children, and our church. We will be participating in an "intergenerational" study titled, "The Righteous Shall Live by Faith", a study about the Ten Commandments and how it relates to the law and God's grace. This curriculum will be combined with a daily family devotions emphasis that will assist parents in discipling their kids. This study will provide our parents with hands on training on how to lead daily family devotions for the summer while providing a positive learning experience for our children and youth during Sunday School. Parents will be encouraged to volunteer during the 9:30 S.S. hour for several weeks to facilitate "mock" family learning experiences. Please be watching for more information in the worship guide, as well as a parent sheet that will be coming home with the children.

Why a study of the Ten Commandments? The Ten Commandments give us a way to talk about God: His nature and character; His righteous standards and our inability to meet them apart from the work of a Savior and His incredible grace. The study also helps us understand ourselves, our sin orientation, and how we are to relate to one another. All of this then points us to our need for Jesus and his dying in our place to make us acceptable before God.

1 Peter 3:18 says: "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring

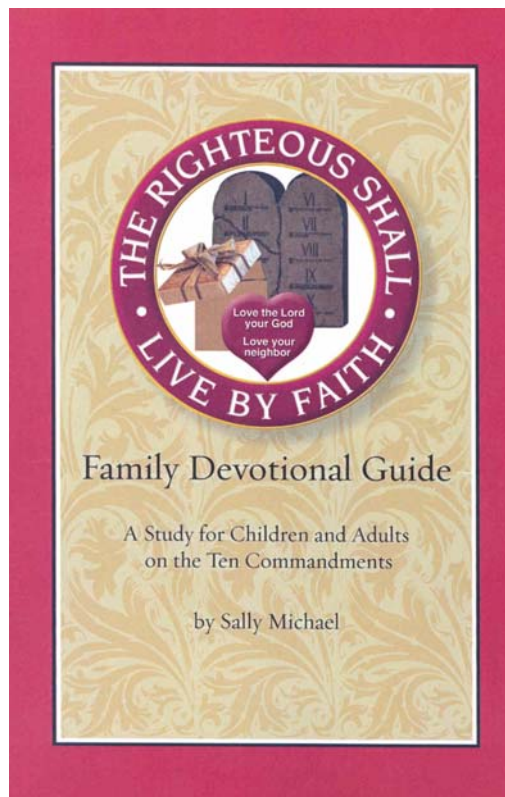
you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit".

The Ten Commandments are not the ten pathways to salvation. In fact, Scripture makes plain that no one will be justified before God on the basis of observing the "law" (Gal 2:16). Ironically, one of the main purposes of the Ten Commandments is to show us that we are sinners and cannot keep the law to God's standard. Jesus explains in The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) that if you are angry you are guilty of murder and if you have lusted you are guilty of adultery. The standards of a holy God are just too high for sinners to keep. But the good news is that we have a Savior who kept the law perfectly in our place thus freeing all who trust in Him to look upon the law not as a way to be justified but as a way that we might live lives of grateful obedience to the God who has already accepted us in Christ.

This summer we will be taking an exciting journey through the Ten Commandments. In so doing we will be caused to reflect upon the perfections of our God, our need as sinners, and our great Savior Jesus Christ who did for us what we could not do for ourselves. This is the Gospel and it remains the one great and indispensable message for adults, students and children alike. We believe these doctrines are essential for every believer and every child who is being raised in a Christian home.

As previously mentioned, there are three components that make up this valuable emphasis:

(see other side for detailed explanation)



Three essential components:

Sunday Morning Bible Study Format at the 9:30 hour

Adult, youth, and children will engage in an intergenerational study that will allow each age group to “encounter” God’s Word appropriately. They will all focus on the same Bible passage each week, as they discover its main truths and how to apply them to their own life and circumstances. Adults will continue to meet in their regular classes. Youth will all meet in “The Lounge” around tables with the master teacher-small group discussion format. For our children, they will actually be divided into “family units” of mixed ages, (ranging from K through the 5th grade), who will be led by “parents”, (aka: small group leaders). The children will all meet together in the Awana Room, 210A-D, sit at tables with their “parents” and participate in a master teacher-small group discussion. They will also have plenty of table games and activities to complete around the table.

Family Devotion Guide

Each family is being asked to purchase a Family Devotion Guide that will provide families with the opportunities to engage in daily family devotions that will parallel what they will be studying each week. The guides are an important companion to the Sunday morning study. These guides are being made available to families at half the cost so that every family can participate. We are asking for a \$5. donation to help with the expense.

Each day’s devotion consists of a scripture passage and a few questions - the plan is to be consistent and simple! It provides parents with counsel and insight on how to do this well.

On the Job Training (OJT) for Parents

One of the key components is the actual training for parents on how to guide and facilitate the daily devotions in homes. Actually, this is necessary too, because in the summer we have several children’s SS teachers who are on vacation or unable to be present. We are asking for all parents to take advantage of the opportunity to practice conducting family devotions by volunteering for at least two weeks at a time to be “parents” to our ten “mock” families that our children will be divided into for the summer. We will have a master teacher teaching the scripture passage each week and then providing each set of parents all they need to facilitate the small group discussion times as well as the activity times. This will be a very controlled and safe environment for you to either learn or further develop skills needed to guide family devotions in your home. All parents have to do to prepare for each weeks lesson is to do the family devotions so that you are familiar with the scripture we will be covering that week. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, consider taking advantage of this, and helping us staff our children’s SS at the same time.

What an exciting summer this will be. If you have any questions about any part of this exciting emphasis, please contact Doug Holt at the church office. We really want everyone to be able to understand what we are trying to accomplish through this valuable opportunity.