

# Jesus for My Family

Series: Built to Last

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**INTRODUCTION:** Turn with me in your bibles to Deuteronomy Chapter 6.

I came across an article, years ago, called, *“Sinners in the Hands of Willy Wonka”* stating that most of us know that five children entered Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory one cold British morning and experienced a trial like no other. Before the day’s end, four of the children were weighed, measured, and found to be wanting--their shortcomings revealed. The fifth child, Charlie Bucket, was proven kind and virtuous and received the reward.

The four rejected children were ***spoiled***, each in their own way. They had ***“gone bad”*** the way a peach will spoil when left on the kitchen counter too long. In the language of Scripture, these children were corrupted.

- Augustus Gloop had been over-fed by his mother until he could not control his appetite;
- Violet Beauregard had been indulged by parents living vicariously through their child;
- Veruca Salt was a brat because her father had never told her “no;”
- Mike Teavee was an odious, unruly boy because his parents had surrendered him to the electronic babysitter.

No one could fault Mr. Wonka for separating the children from the factory: he did not give them the chocolate factory because it would have destroyed the children completely and they would have damaged the factory--along with those who lived and worked there.

They were not rejected because they broke the house rules; they were sent away because their child-like nature had been corrupted into monstrous distortions of their true potential. These children were, “spoiled.”

Willy Wonka did not follow the children, rulebook in hand, eager to cite them for any violation. He did not enforce regulations or demand perfection. He simply

wanted to give away his creation to those capable of stewarding the factory by the virtue of a heart in tune with the maker.

The word **spoiled** is a useful image for understanding our sin nature. The harm of sin is not lawbreaking, but that it ruins the image of God in us. We have, quite literally "gone bad," no longer fit for our highest calling.

**QUOTE:** G.K. Chesterton once said, "*The most extraordinary thing in the world is an ordinary man and an ordinary woman and their ordinary children.*"

Chesterton was pointing to the divine beauty of something the world often overlooks - the home. It may not trend on social media, but a faithful home is front-page news to God.

That's exactly the heart of Deuteronomy 6.

God's plan to change the world begins at home...

-in everyday faithfulness,

-in unseen conversations,

-in hearts that are anchored to Him.

We're in a series on Sunday mornings titled "**Built to Last.**" As we have seen for the last two weeks, storms of life are coming.

-Winds will blow.

-Floods will rise.

-Challenges will beat against what you've built.

**If you want your life, faith, and family to stand strong, you must build wisely.**

And there's no more important place to build wisely than at home.

Have you ever noticed that when you bring a baby home from the hospital, they give you a wristband, a blanket, and a bill - but no instruction manual? You can't buy a toaster without a 50-page instruction manual, but a human being? "Do the best you can!"

Every parent here this morning knows that overwhelming moment when you first looked at the little life and thought, *"Lord, help me not to mess this up."*

Here's the good news - God hasn't left us guessing. He's given us a blueprint right here in Deuteronomy 6.

God tells you and me that if we build according to His Word, our homes can stand firm, and our children will walk in truth. Let's read it:

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 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. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." [NIV]*

**Let's Pray...**The title of this morning's message is **"Jesus for My Family."**

Let's set the scene of Deuteronomy 6. The people of God have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and are now on the verge of finally entering the Promised Land. The generation that had disobeyed 40 years earlier has died and now **"generation next"** is about to enter in. Moses could not go with them, but he wanted to make sure they would be prosperous and succeed.

It's interesting that Moses doesn't give them instructions on farming or shepherding or economics or construction or even military strategy.

What is first and foremost on his mind and on God's heart is the spiritual health of the family. God's people are about to enter a pagan land, filled with over 40 different people groups and yet his focus is on the family.

Here's the recap of these verses and today's sermon in a sentence: **Homes that last are founded on a love for God, formed by the Word of God and filled with reminders of God.**

Let's walk through this passage together.

## **I. A Home That Lasts Is Founded on a Love for God**

Moses starts with the foundation: "***Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***"

Before you even begin trying to teach your children about God, they need to see in you a genuine love for God. **You can't pass on what you don't possess.**

Children can spot a fake a mile away! The greatest sermon your kids will ever hear is the life you live in front of them.

They don't just need to hear you say you love God - they need to see your love for God in how you live, react, prioritize, and put Him above everything and anything else in your life.

Moses said, "The Lord is one!" That's a declaration of God's uniqueness, His absolute supremacy. In essence: "There is no other God." That's why He alone deserves our loyalty, love, and very life.

Now, pay attention to how Moses frames it - "With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength."

Jesus said we are to love God with all our ***heart, soul, mind, and strength.***

**God has created you primarily to love Him as a talker, a feeler, a thinker, or a doer.** Each of us tends more naturally toward one than the others.

Talkers most easily love God with their hearts.

Feelers love God with their souls.

Thinkers love God with their minds.

Doers love God with their strength.

**A. Heart - Your Heart is the ESSENCE of who you are. Your Heart is the center of your INTELLECT. Your Heart is the seat of your CONSCIENCE**

***"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)***

### **To Love God with all your Heart is WORSHIP**

***"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only." Luke 4:8 (NIV)***

Worship is the action of ATTRIBUTING WORTH to something or someone. The Word worship comes from the Old English/Gaelic word that would be translated **WORTH-SHIP...giving or showing worth to someone or something.**

Anyone of us could look at someone's bank statement, calendar, and social media posts and pretty much figure out what/who they worship.

### **Worship of God is always tied to SUBMISSION and SERVICE**

Worship is recognizing that all I have and all I can ever be comes directly as a gift from God...He alone deserves my Worship. So how do we know if we "love God with all our hearts...How do we measure our Love?

Do we "Worship God" with our TIME

Do we "Worship God" with our TALENTS

Do we "Worship God" with our TREASURES

***"Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."*** Matt. 6:21 (NLT)

## **1. Loving God with all our heart requires PASSION.**

Nothing great is ever sustained in life without passion. Passion makes the impossible possible. God created you to have passion in your life and He wants you to live a passionate life. Passion is what mobilizes armies into action. Passion is what causes explorers to boldly go where no man's gone before. Passion is what causes scientists to spend hours trying to find cures for dreaded diseases.

Colossians 3:23 says, ***"Whatever you do, do it with ALL of your heart as unto the Lord and not unto men."***

Here's the amazing thing. In America it's ok to be passionate about anything except God. I can be passionate about sports, the world cup. I can be passionate about hobbies. I can be passionate about politics. I can be passionate about fashion. I can be passionate about food and entertainment and the environment. But it's politically incorrect to be passionate about Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.

There are hundreds of books with 'passion' in the title. A Passion for Birds, A Passion for Books, A Passion for Cactus, A Passion for Chocolate, A Passion for Fashion, ... for Fishing... for Flying, ... for Gardening, ... Golf, Hunting. There's even a book called A Passion for Mushrooms. A Passion for Needlepoint, Pasta, Ponies, Potatoes, for Roses, for Shoes. There's even a book called A Passion for Passion.

Romans 12:11 says, ***'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.'***

Jesus stretched out His hands, and they nailed Him to the cross and He was in essence saying, "I'd rather die than live without you. I created you. I love you. In fact, the suffering of Jesus on the cross was called, ***"The Passion of the Christ."***

Acts 1:3 says, ***"Jesus showed Himself alive to them [the disciples] after His passion by many demonstrations: for forty days He continued to appear to them and tell them all about the kingdom of God."***

## **2. Loving God with all our heart requires COMPASSION**

In his book *A Man After His Own Heart*, Charles Siebert shares a scientific yet poetic depiction of a heart transplant he observed at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Not long after, Siebert attended an annual banquet for transplant recipients, and he was deeply moved by their profound appreciation for life. They spoke in reverent tones about the second chance in life they had been given. They humbly acknowledged their responsibility to honor the donors.

Siebert concluded—and his research is backed up by numerous medical studies—that transplant recipients do not just receive a new heart. They receive whole new sensory responses, cravings, and habits. (Explain) Siebert called this group of heart recipients ***"the tribe of the transplanted."***

***Ezekiel 36:26 says, 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.'***

When you give your heart to Christ, you become a part of the tribe of the transplanted. That new heart gives you a new appreciation for life, and you should humbly acknowledge your responsibility to honor the donor, the Lord Jesus Christ. You literally feel different, because you will begin to feel what Christ feels. And chief among those sanctified emotions is COMPASSION. Remember that Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love others.

***Love the Lord with all your heart.***

**B. Soul - Your entire being - the real you, your life and identity.**

Dr. Andrew Murray writes that the gifts with which the soul was endowed when man became a "living soul", were those of "consciousness, self-determination, or mind, will and emotions".

Dr. Murray also says "The spirit is the seat of our God-consciousness; the soul of our self-consciousness; the body of our world-consciousness.

The soul of a man is the seat of his intellect, will and emotions; It is through the soul that a man knows that he is bold, weak, strong, and intelligent and that he is different from any other person.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 reads: "May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

The order which God presents to us is unmistakable: "**your spirit and soul and body**" (1 Thess. 5.23). It is not "soul and spirit and body," nor is it "body and soul and spirit." The spirit is the pre-eminent part, it is mentioned first; the body is the lowest and mentioned last; the soul stands between.

The SOUL represents the part of man's free will in which spirit and body are completely merged. If man's soul wills to obey God, it will allow the spirit to rule over the man as ordered by God.

The soul stands between these two worlds yet belongs to both. It is linked with the spiritual world through the spirit and with the material world through the body. The soul makes it possible for the spirit and the body to communicate and to cooperate. The work of the soul is to keep these two in their proper order so that they may not lose their right relationship, namely, that the spirit may govern the body through the soul.

Neurologists estimate that we have the capacity to learn something new every second of every minute of every hour of every day for the next three hundred million years. Somewhere along the way, most people stop living out of imagination and start living out of memory.

Mark Batterson, who wrote a book called, "All In" says,

The HEART of Christianity is primal PASSION and COMPASSION.

The SOUL of Christianity is primal WONDER.

The MIND of Christianity is primal CURIOSITY.

The STRENGTH of Christianity is primal ENERGY.

Wonder and curiosity are spiritual cousins. When the soul stops wondering, the mind stops learning; and vice versa. The spiritual implications are serious. **When you stop learning, you not only stop living, but you also stop loving.**

**C. -Strength - All your resources: energy, abilities, time, and influence.**

**This means: A love for God must consume every part of who you are.**

QUOTE: C.S. Lewis, "When first things are put first, secondary things are not suppressed but increased."

When we love God first, everything else in our lives - including our love for our families - will become deeper, richer, and stronger.

The greatest gift you can give your children isn't a better education, a bigger house, or a busier calendar. It's a life that visibly and vibrantly loves God.

**Your walk with God will either validate or violate the words you speak.**

*A home that lasts is founded on a love for God.*

## **II. A Home That Lasts Is Formed by the Word of God**

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "***And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.***"

God's Word must first be in your heart, then it will be in your home.

It's not enough to know about God; His Word must shape the very way you think, speak, and live. Then, it will overflow into the rhythms of your family's life.

Notice how Moses describes this teaching:

***-It's diligent*** - persistent and intentional.

***-It's daily*** - woven into the everyday schedule of your family's life.

***-It's natural*** - not forced but flows out of your own personal walk with God.

The word "diligently" means "to sharpen" or "to engrave." That means that teaching God's Word to our children isn't passive - it's active and intentional. We are to carefully and purposefully etch the truth of God's Word into their hearts.

Just so you know, the home is God's primary classroom for training the next generation to know and love God. Church isn't where your children come to learn about God. The youth group isn't where you send your students to learn how to live the Christian life. We're here to support what you teach at home.

Faith isn't taught once a week-it's caught every day.

That means -

-Faith is meant to saturate the everyday moments of life.

-In the car on the way to school, or rehearsal, or practice...

-Around the dinner table

-Before going to bed at night

-While getting ready for school in the morning

Can I encourage you, parents? You don't have to be perfect. You must keep showing up. The power isn't in your presentation - it's in your persistence.

I believe embracing the “as usuals” is the key to seeing the “unusual” in our life and ministry. Daily discipline is the key to seeing the supernatural and abounding fruit in our lives.

Why? Because our harvest is connected to our habits.

Said another way...The health of our harvest is connected to our holy habits.

And one more time...“As usual” is the key to seeing the “unusual.”

The fruit we bear in our lives is directly connected to the level of our faithfulness. And our ability to abound in every good work is in direct relationship to our choice to abide in Christ. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

The key to seeing the “uncommon” may just be greater faithfulness to the common, ordinary practices and disciplines that produce flourishing fruit and effective ministry over time. (And may we prioritize the most important practice of them all, modeled by Jesus, the practice of the presence of God in our daily lives.)

I am committed today to the “as usual.” And I am trusting that over time I will see the “unusual.”

In Acts 14, we read a phrase I mentioned last week about Jesus. That phrase is “as usual.” Paul and Barnabas are in Iconium, and it is described of them that they went “as usual” to the synagogue to pray.

Daily, they would pray, and daily they would proclaim the gospel. This was there “as usual.”

“As usual” is a powerful phrase for you and I to consider:

As usual, reveals our habits—both good and bad ones.

As usual, reveals our patterns of life.

As usual, reveals our daily rhythms.

As usual, reveals what is predictable about us and therefore what others tend to expect when they are around us.

As usual, reveals the kind of culture we have built personally in our lives, in our homes, churches, and places of work.

In many ways, “as usual” reveals the kind of life we are living and the kind of believer we truly are.

And take note: “as usual” is what led to the unusual taking place in the life and ministry of Paul and Barnabas.

The power of the Holy Spirit not only filled their lives but powerfully at work through their lives. Signs, wonders, miracles, and deliverance continually took place through them. Their “as usual” led to **“unusual power.”**

Their “as usual” also led to **“unusual persecution.”** And their unusual persecution allowed them to experience **an unusual grace** of God to help them persevere.

**QUOTE:** Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate (1947-1949), "Let us not fool ourselves-without Christianity, without Christian education, without the principles of Christ indoctrinated into young life, we are simply rearing pagans."

-Faith isn't a scheduled subject - it's the atmosphere of the home.

Our children are watching - and what they see will form and shape their beliefs.

You say, "But pastor, I haven't been to Bible college or seminary like you." Listen, you don't have to be a seminary graduate to disciple your kid. You just need to be available, authentic, and consistent. Open and read your Bible with them. Pray about small things and big things. Let them hear you process your family's decisions through the lens of Scripture.

**EXAMPLE:** Think about compound interest. You don't see a huge return in a day. But over time, those small, regular investments grow into something substantial.

Raising your children by the Word works the same way. Little deposits, over time, build a strong, rooted faith.

**Example:** My kids during my surgery

*A home that lasts is founded on a love for God, formed by the word of God, and...*

### **III. A Home That Lasts Is Filled with Reminders of God**

Deuteronomy 6:8-9, "***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.***"

Our Jewish friends took that very literally. Phylacteries are little leather boxes with scriptures tied to the arm or forehead.

Mezuzahs are little boxes with scripture - normally this passage - on the doorposts of their homes.

Today, as Christians, we don't bind phylacteries or nail mezuzahs to our doorposts, but the principle remains: Fill your life and home with visible reminders of God and His Word.

**Example:** Liz Mercer's mother in Canada

QUOTE: Alistair Begg, "A home where God is spoken of freely will become a place where God is loved deeply."

-Surround yourself and your family with visible signs of God's truth:

-open Bibles on bedside tables

-Scripture on the walls

-prayer journals on the counters

-worship music in the background

-reminders of answered prayers framed in pictures and stories

EXAMPLE: Advertisers understand this principle. You can't drive a mile without seeing a billboard or logo, can't look online. They know that what you repeatedly see shapes what you value.

**If secular advertisers understand the power of repeated images, how much more should we as Believers?**

Think intentionally about the spiritual atmosphere of your home. Let your children see evidence that your home belongs to Jesus, not just in what you say but in what surrounds them daily.

Make it obvious. Because what's displayed in your home will eventually be planted in their hearts.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Let's go back to the blueprint: If you want to build a lasting home, it must be founded on a love for God, formed by the Word of God, and then filled with reminders of God.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I read about this and was stunned. Did you know that every horse in the 2025 Kentucky Derby was a descendant of Secretariat - the legendary racehorse who won the 1973 Triple Crown? Every single one. Over fifty years later, his influence was still shaping the sport - not just in memory but in bloodline.

That's what happens when the eternal word of God is planted and passed down. And what Secretariat is to horse racing, you can be to your family: a source of strength, faith, and excellence that outlives you.

The spiritual foundation you're laying today - in conversations, devotions, prayers, and life choices - can impact not just your kids but your grandkids and great grandkids. That's the power of a life formed by the Word of God.

QUOTE: Adrian Rogers used to say, "The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first."

QUOTE: Warren Wiersbe wrote, "The future of the church depends on the character of the home."

**If we don't pass it on, it may be because we never fully possessed it.**

**Good News? It's not too late to start building - or rebuilding - with God's blueprint.**

-Renew your love for Him.

-Refocus your home around His Word.

-Re-center your life on Christ.

Because what you build today will be the foundation your children can stand on tomorrow.