

## Develop: Our Children - Relationships

*This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the guide in your small group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your small group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.*

**MAIN TEXT: Deuteronomy 6:1-7**

**SUMMARY:** Last week, we studied just how much “love” can mean to a child. This week we will look at developing relationships.

### GETTING STARTED

**We often complain about our culture. Israel was taught how to change their culture in Deut. 6:1-7. It all depends on how we raise our children – “. . .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.” You may not have children but we are a church so all children are ours. What challenges do children face these days,**

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. How do relationships help develop students?
  - a) 3 key relationships – with God, with peers, and with parents. Why would one or all of these relationship matter to a child?
  - b) Kids learn every day by watching you, how you act, how you talk, how you react to adversity, what you do/what you don't do, where you spend most of your time. What do the children around you see? (may not be necessarily yours.)
  - c) As a church, do we collectively have a responsibility to all the children in “the family” of God?
  - d) How can we develop a relationship with the hundreds of children that attend FAC?
2. What happens to a child deprived of true relationships?
  - b) Drugs? Gangs? Crime? Keep going.

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Relationships are hard to teach our children. The very best way is through love and communication. Listen, watch, and play with your children this week. What behaviors are you observing? What needs do they express? How can you meet those needs? The world is full of bad relationships. Give your child the strength and courage to be who God made them to be.

A great way to get people talking is to have a family game night. Turn off the electronics, the TV, even the music! Just talk. During the game, ask about their friends, their goals, their dreams. Leave judgment at the door and just listen. Encourage where appropriate. Offer alternatives when necessary. In any event, lavish them with love. After all, God lavishes His love on them and you every day, a thousand times a day.

- b) Why are these things attractive to a child? What do they offer that the church has failed to offer?
- c) Relationships tell us that we are loved, have value, and mean something to someone. What does a gang offer?
- d) What are the qualities of a good relationship? Or a bad one?

### Take action:

1. It has been said that the only thing we can take to heaven with us is people. Which people are you taking with you?
2. Find a child this week, yours or someone else's, and speak words of love and encouragement into their life. Be intentional.
3. Remember what it was like to be a child, a teen, a young adult. What did you need or want the most from the adults around you? Find a child, teen or young adult and make sure you supply that need.

## NEXT STEPS

This week I will find at least one child and tell them:

- They are loved.
- They are strong and brave.
- They are valuable.
- They are beautiful.
- They are smart.
- They are wanted and cherished.
- They are \_\_\_\_\_.
- They are \_\_\_\_\_.