



Session 1

Big Idea:

Parents are by far the biggest influence on the spiritual lives of their kids.

GROUP OPENER

Share if you grew up in a family that had faith.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read Deuteronomy 6 and Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

August 11
WEEKEND

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable. Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

As a Group

Discuss this statistic was shared:

Religion ranked as the sixth most important part of who they (Gen Z) are behind professional/educational achievement, hobbies, gender/sexuality, friends, and family.

Why do you think that these other priorities are higher than religion? Discuss each one.

The following parental trends have been noted in studies of recent years.

- Protection over initiation
- Happiness over readiness
- Friendship over leadership
- Individual actualization over communal integration
- Screen-based childhoods over play-based childhoods
- Expert outsourcing over parental responsibility

What is the common thread with the items on the left side of the list?

How can you even if you are not a parent foster the items on the right side of the list above in the young people you have in your circles?

"Parents set a "glass ceiling" of religious commitment above which their children rarely rise. Parental religious investment and involvement is in almost all cases the necessary and even sometimes sufficient condition for children's religious investment and involvement."

-Christian Smith, *Handing Down the Faith*