



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 1

Do you desire to invite God into your home? This brief message series *Doorposts* provides Biblical encouragement to keep God's word at the center of our lives wherever we call home. What do you tell children when they ask questions about your faith, or about your practices as a follower of Jesus? It may be less about inviting God into your home, and more about inviting those who live in or enter your home to see God's goodness and rescue that lies at the heart of our actions and words. How does life in your home point to God? As you study and pray this week, may you pay attention to the moments where the Word of God resides in your everyday life.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Receive this blessing each day as you move into your day as a follower of Jesus.

May your home be a place where God's name is on your lips. May God's Word be impressed upon all who enter. May you talk about God when you sit at the table. May you talk about God when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. And may you write God's commands on your doorposts asking for God's help and God's blessing. In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 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.

- The commandments that have been laid out in the previous chapter are a gift from God to keep us focused on God. Commandments or laws are typically viewed as external and controlling even when they are good. But commandments from God are meant to sink all the way into our hearts. They go deeper than civic codes—they keep us in relationship with our Creator. It might be awkward at first to have God’s name and commandments on your lips. If it’s new to you, start with a simple, “Thank you God for loving me enough to keep me on your path.” or “Help me God to see your direction today.” What other ways is God’s name and commandments in your heart and on your lips?
- *Thank you God for loving me enough to keep me on your path, and help me God to see your direction today. Amen.*

TUESDAY: MATTHEW 22.36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- Jesus was connecting with his Jewish audience who used these words as the centerpiece of their daily prayers. This reminder that their God was **one** helped to distinguish Him from other gods that were worshiped at the time. To summarize the Law, Jesus recited this command to love God with all that you are. That is the point of the law—to keep us in love with God—and to share that love with our neighbor. Are you ever overwhelmed by the thought of following Jesus? Songwriter Rich Mullins wrote these lyrics,

*Lord it's hard to turn the other cheek
Hard to bless when others curse you
Oh Lord it's hard to be a man of peace
Lord it's hard ~ oh it's hard
You know it's hard to be like Jesus*

It’s hard to be like Jesus, but the end of obedience to God is a deep love for Him and others. How are you doing at following the greatest commandment? In what areas do you need help?

- *Jesus, you have cut through the things we do with laws and customs and shown us the path to obedience that leads to life. Thank you Jesus. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: EXODUS 12.3,7,13

Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.

Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

- The instructions in Deuteronomy state that the commands of God should be written on the doorposts of His people (6.9). The use of doorposts to communicate dedication to God goes back to this account of the Passover in Exodus. Here the blood of a lamb is a sign that brings salvation to those in the house. The same idea is true in Deuteronomy where (as we'll see in tomorrow's reading) the law written on doorposts points to the story of salvation—when God saved God's people from slavery in Egypt. Have you ever thought about what your home says about God to the people who enter? It doesn't have to be literal writing on the doorframe, but what other ways might a person experience the story of salvation when they enter your home?
- *God of Salvation, open my eyes to see the signs of your salvation all around me, and I will mark those moments and never forget. Amen.*

THURSDAY: DEUTERONOMY 6.20-25

In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?”²¹ tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.²² Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household.²³ But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors.²⁴ The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.²⁵ And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

- It had been a full generation since the exodus out of Egypt. And the people were anticipating the questions that would yet come from future generations. The laws and commands of God were constant reminders of what God had done in previous generations. The story of rescue from slavery in Egypt was and is a defining moment that frames our understanding of who God is and what God's heart is towards us. As followers of Jesus, the resurrection is our defining moment. What stories of God's rescue in your family or community are often repeated to point to God's goodness?
- *Lord, help me to remember and share the ways you are moving in the world today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: JOSHUA 24.14-15

“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

- God's people had moved into the Promised Land and were entering into a new season. Joshua is a good leader and takes this moment to recall all that God had done to bring them into this land—the battles that had been won. This was a moment to renew their covenant with God, so decisions had to be made. Will we continue to be the people of God? Joshua declares it so for his household. This kind of declaration is a daily decision for us. Who will we serve? To whom is our household oriented? How can you or others tell?
- *God, make me bold in my proclamation and faithful in my actions to serve you and you alone.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 91.1-2

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High

will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,*

my God, in whom I trust."

- We sometimes think of our homes as our refuge from the world. It can be healthy to retreat for a time of rest and renewal. For some, the home is not a place of safety, and we can wonder where to turn for shelter. Our ultimate home and shelter is with God. He is our refuge and fortress. He longs to give us rest in his shadow. Have you experienced an answer to that longing to dwell in the shelter of God?
- *God, help me to trust fully in you. I long for your presence. Be my refuge and fortress today. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Wherever you are gathered now, stop and imagine the home in which you live. As you pray together, picture each room and pray for God's blessing. Now imagine standing at the door. Pray a blessing over all who enter and exit through the doors of this home—that they may experience the word of God and the life it gives to you.

- Picture the Living Room— who gathers there and for what purpose?
- Picture the bedrooms—who sleeps there?
- Picture the kitchen and dining table—what stories are shared around food and drink?
- Picture the front door of the home— who enters and exits through this doorway?

As you think through the various places Deuteronomy 6 says to put God's Word, which ones seem to be the most difficult to obey on a daily basis?

- On your heart
- On your mind
- Impressed upon your children
- At home
- On the move
- When you lay down, when you get up
- On your hands, on your forehead
- On your doorposts and gates

What commitments can you make to keep God's Word at the forefront of your life?