

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAITH OF OUR FAMILIES

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Proverbs 22:6

Ephesians 1:18-19a

and more

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Who in your life do you long to nurture or encourage in faith?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to discuss matters of faith with others? Do you find it easier or more difficult to discuss matters of faith with close family members or friends? Why?

We care deeply for our children, spouses, and friends. As people of faith, nurturing, encouraging, or supporting the faith of those close to us is naturally quite important to us. But how, exactly, we do this best isn't always clear. Many of us have asked ourselves questions like "How do I nurture the faith of my children?" or "What's the best way to encourage my spouse to engage more in faith?" or "How do I help my friend believe in God?" Join Groundwork as we discuss the ways scripture equips us to encourage and nurture the faith of those we know and love.

Listen: [Questions about the Faith of Our Families](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Based on your words and actions, what do you think others, particularly children, might perceive about your attitude towards church and faith?
- In segment 2, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss with guest Rev. Deb Koster a kind of phony Christianity that presents the false idea that Christians have it all together. Instead, they suggest having the courage to be honest and real when talking about faith. In her Family Fire article "[Follow God's Call to Mentor](#)," Deb writes, "It is a small thing to hang out drinking milkshakes and talking about the ups and downs of the Christian life, but it is so vitally important...It gives the kids a mentor to talk with and normalizes questions of faith as part of life." Is it normal for you to discuss questions of faith with friends or family members? Have you ever intentionally mentored another person in their faith? Is there anyone in your life with whom you feel the Holy Spirit is encouraging you to be more transparent and honest about the realities of your faith?
- Read Jeremiah 31:16-17, Ephesians 1:18-19a, and Philippians 1:6. How might you use these passages to help you pray for someone else's faith?
- Deb, Scott, and Dave emphasize the importance of modeling faith and having open and honest conversations. If unpracticed, it can be intimidating to share our own faith. Below are 3 ideas of how you

might practice and become more comfortable sharing your faith. Complete one (or all).

- Take 5 minutes—think back on your last hour. Where was God working? Then reflect on your last day....where can you see God actively involved in your life? Consider making this practice a daily habit. Then, as Deb talked about in segment 1, practice sharing with your loved ones where you see God in the little things each day.
- Pick an element of your church service or a Christian practice, like prayer or service. Explain in your own words WHY we observe this practice and more specifically HOW it helps your faith.
- Choose a Bible passage: maybe one of the passages discussed in this episode, a favorite Bible story, or simply a passage you haven't read in a while. Exercise your imagination and practice wonder as you read the passage. For a better understanding of wonder and it's benefit, read Deb's Family Fire article, [Growing in Faith: Moving from Head to Heart](#).

Related Passages

- **Philippians 1:6**
- **Luke 18:1-8**
- **1 Corinthians 11:1**
- **2 Timothy 1:13**

Conclusion

As the episode closes, Deb reminds us that *"It is a powerful thing when we can pray and have the Holy Spirit doing the work, because we cannot change somebody else's life...God has control of their hearts and we don't."*

Take time to pray for your loved ones, be specific. Place them, and your concerns and worries for them, right where they belong—in the hands of God.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/questions-about-the-faith-of-our-families>

Printed on July 3, 2024