

Gathering

AT HOME

It is often said, "Love is not what you say, Love is what you do." The Commandments God gave to His people were not merely words engraved in stone; they were an expression of GOD's divine love for us to guide us on how to live out of our love for Him. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (MSG) says:

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.

There is a saying among Salvationists that goes 'home is where the Army sends me'. As Salvation Army officers, we are expected to change residence from time to time as part of our marching orders. What makes our home is not a house or a specific location, rather is the family life we share: a bond of love that goes wherever we are and go. At home, behind the drawn curtains, we find we can be 'ourselves'. There should be no difference between our talk and our walk. Our family hear what we say and sees what we do with what we say. We laugh together, we cry together, and we grow together. As our children grow, daily routines may change but the foundation of values and love for each other remain.

God gave the commandments to be the moral foundation of His people. At home, we are to cultivate God honoring family life. We have been commanded to love our God, to love our mother and father, and to love our neighbor in a God honoring manner. These foundational truths are at the core of our decisions and choices, of our priorities, of our relationships.

God expressed his love to us through the sacrifice of his son Jesus. Expressed love and care for God and others is often the most effective message we can give whether we are at home or in public.

Gathering

AT HOME continued

After reading scripture consider these questions:

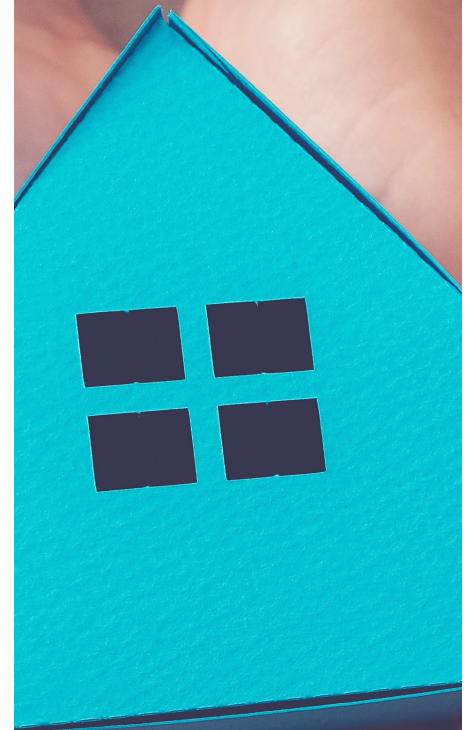
- At home behind the drawn curtains what does your family see?
- As we express our love to others, do we offer that same care and attention to our family?
- Are your decisions, priorities and relationships aligned with God's commandments? Is God at the center of your thoughts and actions every day?
- For those with children or spiritual children, would they say you do as you say?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.



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June Leader's Page



Deuteronomy 6:6-7



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Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Family life includes gatherings for celebrations, holiday observances, and yes, overcoming trials and struggles together. How do we keep God's love at the center of our family life? Let's take a close look at the following passages:

READ EXODUS 19:9-12 (NIV)

- What effect did Moses' witnessing of God's greatness and compassion have on Jethro, his father-in-law?
- Jethro advised Moses when he struggled. What does that say about their relationship? How can we remind our family of God's redeeming love to sustain us all in times of trials?
- How does your family see your faith expressed when you get together? Do they come to you for spiritual direction?

READ EXODUS 12:26-27 (NIRV)

- For many 'holy days' celebrations have become secular gatherings with no spiritual relevance. Many younger generations are growing without a sense of awe to who God or personal relationship with Jesus.
- Do your family traditions remind those with you the reason to celebrate?
- Share some of your traditions and the effect they had on your children as they were growing up and the effect it has on them and their children now.
- If someone in your family is asked what is the true meaning of Christmas or Easter, what would they say?



*Written by Majors Amy and Brian Merchant,
Western Pennsylvania Division*



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