

The One Thing Our Children Need to Know

March 21, 2010 – Jeff Gunn

⁴ 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 upon 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. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NIV)

Do we want our children to be spiritually _____?

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4, NIV)

⁴²"And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. (Mark 9:42, NIV)

Notes _____

1. God wants us to _____ his commands upon our children.

A huge challenge to our "memory": _____

²⁸One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'" (Mark 12:28-30, NIV)

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9, NIV)

Notes _____

1. God wants us and our children to be _____ to him.

The one thing needed: Not what _____ do, but what _____ did!

³¹For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath... ³⁷Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength. (Deuteronomy 4:31, 37, NIV)

¹⁶This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. (1 John 3:16, NIV)

Notes _____

3. But the one thing God really wants for our children is to know _____ love for them.

⁴¹"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴²but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42, NIV)

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Deliberate! Reflect on the love Jesus has for you. Recall the many wonderful things he has done to bless you. Refocus on the goal of your faith—the salvation of your soul.
- Select one child. Take one step. Ask yourself what one thing you could do for a child to teach them the love of Jesus: _____
- Meditate on and memorize 1 John 3:16.