Deuteronomy 6:6-9

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Devotional Thought:

My mom raised us to have family devotions together each weekday through the book of Proverbs. We would read a Christian Fiction book and would read a Proverb that went with each day (ex: April 1st= Proverbs 1). When the month would end we would just start again from the beginning.

Now, you would think that because I have read through the book of Proverbs so much that I should be well versed in its content. Unfortunately, I am not. Just because I had read it with my family does not mean that I absorbed all of its contents. As I got older and began to take my faith more seriously, I kicked myself for not paying more attention in those times. I wished I valued that time more, but then I realized that I had absorbed more treasured values than I had at first realized. I may not have memorized verses from Proverbs during our family devotions, but I remembered the example of a mother who was and still is completely devoted to the Lord. I may have groaned as we had to spend an hour or so reading instead of playing outside, but I learned the practice of critical Bible study.

Even though, as a child, I did not value that devotion time as much as I wish I did, I have still benefited from it years down the road. Even though, in the moment, I was uninterested in a deepening relationship with the Lord, God was still planting a seed that did not come to grow until I became more mature.

Application:

Parents, your opportunity and responsibility as followers of God is to stimulate these devotional times. This does not have to look like a daily scripture reading. This could be using daily situations as teaching moments to talk about how people who love God handle anger, hurt, fear, etc. This could be asking everyone at dinner what they have learned about Jesus that week. Parents, most importantly, your responsibility is to model this devoted life to God as well. I am a firm believer that I would not be where I am with the Lord if I did not have a family that took me to church, a father that was extremely generous, and a mother who would hide away in her room spending time in the Word and in Prayer. This looks like creating a safe space for your children to ask questions, to hear the hard conversations, and to see you being faithful with your walk with God.

Children and teens, this is your opportunity to ask questions that maybe you felt embarrassed about. This is an opportunity for you to share what you believe about God and where you have your doubts. Today, start creating the habit of having home as your safe space to learn and grow in God. If nobody knows the answers to someone’s question, then make that an opportunity to challenge each other to investigate the Bible or even searching online sources as well.

To be a family that is built on God and His Word does not mean that you have to be a family of monks devoted to hours of uninterrupted scripture reading and meditation. It means that you daily encourage and challenge each other to seek out the Lord in our daily lives.

Take time to discuss how you as a family can stimulate opportunities to grow as a family in the Lord. Take the ideas that you all agree on and set plans into place to follow each day. Then close in prayer, maybe have each person say a prayer and have a parent close it out.