



WHAT ABOUT...? • COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY • WEEK 6

How Do You Pass Faith to Your Kids?

A guided conversation from the May 17, 2026 sermon by Pastor James Drake • Deuteronomy 6:4-9

SUMMARY

There's a moment, somewhere around 9:47 PM on a Tuesday, when most parents quietly wonder if they're failing at the most important assignment of their lives. The dishes are still in the sink. One kid is supposed to be in bed and isn't. Another is asking — for the third time this week — a real, honest question about God you don't know how to answer.

This past Sunday, Pastor James Drake preached from the field — recorded during his current Army Chaplain deployment — on the Great Shema in Deuteronomy 6, the same passage Jesus reached for in Mark 12 when he was asked to name the greatest commandment out of hundreds. Why this one? Because everything downstream in our lives — our families, our work, our peace, our purpose — depends on first answering the question of who actually sits on the throne of our hearts.

Drake walked us through three movements. First, the Shema opens with a claim before it issues a command: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Loving God is impossible without first being clear on who God is. Second, Jesus expands the original Shema to say love God with all your heart, soul, mind, AND strength — the whole you, not a Sunday slice. Third, the Shema commands a daily rhythm at home: when you sit, when you walk, when you lie down, when you rise. Faith isn't an event you perform; it's a rhythm you live.

The sermon landed where every honest sermon has to land: not with try harder, but with Jesus. Christ lived the wholehearted love of God we never could. He died the death we owed. And he sends his Spirit to do the one thing law could never do — write God's word on our hearts from the inside out. That's the gospel of the Great Shema, and it's the legacy worth leaving.

PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

Father, You see the homes we come from tonight. You see the homes we are trying to build. You see the kids you've entrusted to us and the gap between what we want to give them and what we actually feel equipped for. Open our eyes again to the Great Shema — who You are, who we are in You, and how You write Your love on our hearts from the inside out. Make this conversation honest. Make our homes faithful. In Jesus' name, amen.

Think back to the home you grew up in. Was faith part of the daily rhythm there, or was it more of a Sunday event – or neither? What did that shape in you?

SCRIPTURE KEY SCRIPTURES**DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 • ESV**

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

MARK 12:29-30 • ESV

Jesus answered, 'The most important is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

JEREMIAH 31:33 • ESV

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

DISCUSS DISCUSSION**01 WHO'S ON THE THRONE?**

Drake quoted Calvin: 'The human heart is an idol factory.' We take good gifts from God – marriage, kids, career, comfort – and quietly promote them into the place only God belongs. What's a good thing in your life right now that has tried to become an ultimate thing? How can you tell?

02 THE WHOLE YOU

Jesus expands Deuteronomy 6's 'might' to 'mind and strength' so no part of you gets left out: heart, soul, mind, strength. Which one of those four feels most engaged with God right now? Which one feels furthest from Him?

03 SUNDAY SLICE VS. WHOLE LIFE

Drake said, 'God is grieving over a people who tried to give him a slice!' Where in your week is faith genuinely woven in – and where is it bracketed off into 'Sunday Jeff' or 'small group Jeff'?

04 SIT, WALK, LIE DOWN, RISE

Deuteronomy 6 commands a daily rhythm, not a scheduled devotion. Which moment of your ordinary day already feels open to bringing God into on purpose – the car ride, the dinner table, bedtime, the morning? What's one tiny rhythm you could try this week?

05 THE DINNER-TABLE DISASTER

Drake described his first family devotion – kid upside-down, baby drooling on the Bible, his wife checking her watch. Have you had a moment like that, where the 'meaningful' faith moment with your family went sideways? What did it teach you?

06 WHEN YOU BLOW IT

Drake said some of the most important family-discipleship moments in his home were when he lost his temper and apologized in front of his kids. Why is letting your kids see you confess often more formative than letting them see you 'have it together'?

07 A GIFT, NOT A BURDEN

Drake reframed the Shema as 'a gift you give your kids by living it in front of them.' How does that reframe change how you feel about the responsibility of raising your kids in the faith? Where do you feel the gift, and where does it still feel like a burden?

08 A FAITH FAMILY ON MISSION

How can this group become a place where parents trying to pass faith on can be honest — without performing, without pretending we have it figured out? And how do we make room for those without children of their own to share in this Shema rhythm with the families around them?

APPLY LIFE APPLICATION

Drake gave us three honest moves this week. Walk through them out loud as a group, then bring back specific answers next time you meet:

- 1 Name what's on the throne.** Identify one good thing in your life right now that has been quietly trying to become an ultimate thing. Name it specifically. Confess it. Ask Jesus to take that seat back.
- 2 Pick one tiny rhythm.** Choose one moment in your daily life — the car ride, the dinner table, bedtime — and bring God into it on purpose this week. A 30-second prayer. A verse on the way to school. One sentence at the dinner table. Small. Consistent. Imperfect.
- 3 Be honest in front of your people.** When you blow it this week — temper, impatience, indifference — let someone see you apologize. Your kids if you have them. Your spouse. Your roommate. The gospel becomes visible at the dinner table when grown-ups confess in front of the ones they love.

Don't try to launch a family-devotion empire by Friday. Just begin one rhythm and let Christ build it. Come back next time with one honest answer to each step. The beauty of this faith family is that we walk these rhythms together — and that we don't have to be perfect parents to follow a perfect Savior in front of our kids.

REMEMBER KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ The Shema opens with who God is before it commands love — every disordered love downstream begins with disordered worship upstream.
- ▶ The human heart is an idol factory. Good gifts quietly become ultimate things — and that's where every family slowly falls out of order.
- ▶ Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength: the whole you, not a Sunday slice.
- ▶ Faith isn't an event you perform — it's a rhythm you live. Sit, walk, lie down, rise.
- ▶ You're not trying to be a perfect parent. You're trying to follow a perfect Savior in front of your kids.
- ▶ The Shema is a gift you give your kids by living it in front of them — not a burden you put on them.
- ▶ Christ fulfilled the Shema we never could. His Spirit writes God's love on our hearts from the inside out.

Faith isn't an event you perform. It's a rhythm you live.

PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, You have not asked us to be perfect parents – You have invited us to follow a perfect Savior in front of our families. Write Your love on our hearts from the inside out. Make our homes places where Your Word is not just read, but lived. Take down the idols we have crowned and put Yourself back on the throne where only You belong. Help us pick one rhythm this week, and start there. And help us take our next step with You – and to invite someone else to take theirs. In Your name, amen.

CHRISTCHURCH MIAMI

A Faith Family on Mission

8485 SW 112th St • Miami (Kendall), FL 33156

Sundays at 11 AM • Wednesdays 6:30 PM Family Night

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