

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

How We Worship: Confession of Faith

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker: If you had to watch one movie every year on the same day, what movie would it be?

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 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. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

1. The More You Confess Your Faith, the More You Find in Your Faith

Question: Think about the situation for the people of Israel. How might their circumstances (saved from slavery, but not yet in the Promised Land) be similar to our circumstances today?

Question: What's significant about who God tells them He is and how they are to relate to Him?

Discussion: What does it mean to confess that the Lord is one in a world of many voices, values, and distractions? How might that have been important for Israel as they were going into the Promised Land?

Discussion: Are there any phrases that you might frequently repeat or that are often repeated in your family? How do these have the ability to shape you?

Discussion: Why do you think the church has historically used creeds and catechisms? What do they offer that spontaneous expressions might not?

Discussion: Have you ever had a time where a repeated confession of faith (like the Apostolic Creed) suddenly meant more because of what you were going through?

Discussion: What repeated prayers, hymns, or confessions have taken on new meaning for you in different seasons of life?

2. The More You Confess Your Faith, the More You Live in Your Faith

"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."

Discussion: What are ways we can make our faith visible and livable in everyday life? In our homes, marriages, friendships, etc.?

Discussion: Consider the story from Tish Harrison Warren's darkest season where Compline gave her words when she had none. Have you ever experienced something similar—where the faith of others (written, spoken, or sung) carried you?

Question: What danger is there in only trusting what feels *authentic* in the moment? How might confessions anchor us when emotions and circumstances shift?

Discussion: What's the difference between confessing our faith and reciting our faith? How can we lean into confessing as a form of spiritual formation and avoid just stale reading of words on a page?