



DIGGING DEEPER

Beyond the Table

August 16th, 2026

This week, we continued our *Homecoming* series by looking closely at the ancient prayer from Deuteronomy 6 known as the *Shema*. We discussed how God calls us to pass down our faith not through rigid presentations or forced perfection, but through everyday life, meaningful conversations, and simple repetition.

Icebreaker

- Did your family have any unique or funny morning routines growing up (like Pastor Carlos's story about his morning toast messages)?
- What is one favorite memory or tradition from your family's dining table?

Key Scriptures

- Deuteronomy 6:4–7
- Psalm 78:4
- Luke 10:27–37

Discussion Questions

1. Receiving God's Love First

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4–5. Before we can love God with all our heart, soul, and strength, we must first receive His love for us. Why is it so easy to get caught up in trying to *impress* God rather than simply *receiving* His grace?
- How does fully receiving God's love change the way you interact with the people in your home, workplace, or neighborhood?

2. Impressing Faith Through Everyday Rhythms

- In verse 7, Moses instructs us to impress God's commands on the next generation when we sit, walk, lie down, and get up—in ordinary life. What does "everyday discipleship" look like for you right now?
- The Hebrew word for impress (*Shanan*) implies learning through repetition. What positive spiritual rhythms or habits are you currently repeating in your daily life?

3. Telling Your Story

- Read Psalm 78:4. Pastor Carlos reminded us that "people don't need perfect friends; they need people who serve a God who is perfect." Why are we often hesitant to share our imperfect stories and past mistakes with others?
- Has there been a time when hearing someone else's raw, honest story helped grow your faith?

4. Expanding the Table

- Read Luke 10:29–37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan). Natural human instinct often leads us to shrink our circles, but the gospel constantly expands the table. Who in your life right now might need an invitation to your table or community?
- What is one practical step you or your group can take this week to "make room" for someone who needs to experience God's love?

Prayer Focus

- **Next Generation:** Pray for the children, teenagers, and young believers in your family, church, and community. Ask God to show you how to model His love to them authentically.
- **Local Educators & First Responders:** Lift up teachers, police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, and parents as they serve and support the next generation daily.
- **Humility & Grace:** Ask the Lord to help you release any shame over past mistakes and give you the courage to start fresh right where you are.