

Deuteronomy 6:20-25 (NIV2011)

²⁰ In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?”

1. **Answer the kids questions.** Years ago I had a lecturer when I was doing my Youth For Christ Internship Youth Ministry course that said that one of the greatest tools of ministry not only for young people but for people of any age is: Answering their questions. In some ways this has been a format for ministry, certainly through the 16 years of youth ministry but also throughout my pastoral times, (Mm another 18 years – been doing this a while)
In fact the idea for this brief series comes from some questions people asked last year, and this sermon has some responses to some of those questions.

One of the ways we can allow people to recognize that they are significant to us is listening to them. Unfortunately, these days most people listen to respond rather than listen to hear. By that I mean, we listen to have our say, or give advice rather than listening to hear the story of the person. If we don't listen, we don't know what to answer.

Listen to how this Old Testament passage responds:

²¹ tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

²² Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household.

2. **Tell the story.**

Notice the instructed response. Tell them the history.

Listen to the question then answer THAT question.

The question is why do we follow these rules?

The answer is We follow these rules because what God says works.

Time and time again in the bible the story is reiterated.

The coming out of Egypt, the crossing the red sea, the stories of Kings etc

IN the New Testament it is Jesus death and resurrection.

Notice the instructions for reply go on.

²³ But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors.

3. **The results of God's action.**

IN the Story, the information about God's faithfulness is expounded and explained. Our testimony isn't about how good we are for turning our lives around, but about how amazing God is for giving us the tools we need to get right with Him. Our testimony is about God working in our life.

Last week I mentioned that our theme for the year is

BEING OUT THERE.

Part of us being a missional bunch of people is about being willing to do this.

Tell our story of how God works in our life.

That's what needs to be out there.

We'll go on:

²⁴ The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

4. **Give the reasons for the answer.**

Know why we are instructed to do stuff, know how it works.

If you don't know – says so and say you'll find out. This is the best way to know you can follow up on the conversation.

It also gives you a chance to seek more from God as we talked about last week

Notice where we finish today:

²⁵ And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

5. **Obedience is a thing.**

Notice in this passage that obedience is a requirement. It says that obedience will be our righteousness, that means in its context that obedience shows our rightness with God.

Now this does not demean grace. God's grace does the work no doubt about it, yet for us to accept that grace, well God's grace has consequences. You accept God's grace and you then need to keep your side of the bargain, or at least try to

See obedience is a thing. It is a thing we need to take on board and implement.

That's a project for this year.

