

Subject: *The Original Bible School*

Scripture: *Deuteronomy 6:1-9*

We use the term “Bible School” to speak of VBS or to refer to a school for training preachers and missionaries, but the first Bible school was neither of these. The original Bible school was actually the home and it was designed by God for His people. Other kinds of Bible schools have been started since God’s original Bible school, but none of them can ever replace it.

We need to understand something about the setting of Deuteronomy. This book contains God’s instructions for His people as they were preparing to enter the Promised Land and establish their homes in this new land. The key to their blessing and long existence in this new land would be their obedience to God and His ways, and the key to their obedience would be the instruction and examples set by the parents in the home.

1. The PRINCIPAL of this school

God Himself is the head and principle of this school. When you think of a principal, you think of someone who deserves respect. God wants us to know and respect Him, and there’s no better place to learn that than the home. God wants us to learn His ways and obey Him. This doesn’t happen by chance or accident, but only by design. God designed the home to be a place of worship and training, a place of character building.

2. The PURPOSE of this school

God designed the family to be the primary place where His people would be taught what to believe and how to live. This was for their good and His glory. The supreme purpose of the home Bible school was to bring God glory. He laid out some priorities for this school.

- A. To learn God’s Word (vs. 1)
- B. To fear God and obey Him (vs. 2-3)
- C. To know the one true God (vs. 4) – This was the “Shema” (Heb., “hear”). It was and is the main confession of faith among the Jewish people. It is a confession about the nature of God. He is the only true God. There is no other. The word “one” is the Hebrew word “ehad” which only means numerical oneness, but unity, like we would describe one cluster of grapes or one congregation of people. It is a word that describes God as one, but includes the idea that God is three in one (Trinity).
- D. To love God supremely (vs. 5) – Jesus said this was the great commandment.

3. The INSTRUCTION in this school

God appointed and authorized the teachers and their method of instruction. Parents are to be instructors and models of what they teach (vs. 6-9). God mentioned this again because it was so important **Deuteronomy 11:18-21**. Pay attention to these elements of instruction:

- A. Parents teach *out of their own convictions* (vs. 6)
- B. Parents teach *in normal life situations* (vs. 7)

C. Parents teach *to influence thoughts and actions* (vs. 8)

Some Jews took these this literally and tied “phylacteries” (small boxes containing these verses) to their hands and foreheads with thongs of leather.

D. Parents teach *clearly and repeatedly* (vs. 9)

Some Jews also took this literally and attached “mezuzah” (small vessels containing verses) to the door post of their homes.

4. The IMPORTANCE of this school

The Lord warned them of two dangers:

A. Without faithful instruction *they would forget God* (vs. 10-12)

B. Without faithful instruction *they would forsake God* (vs. 13-14)

The very life and existence of the nation depended on the training of children in the home. God is a jealous God. He guards and protects what belongs to Him—His name, His honor, His character. He will not share His honor and glory with another god. He will not give that which belongs only to Him.

Deuteronomy 4:24 *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*

Our nation claims to be “one nation under God,” but He is nothing like the God of the Bible. How is it possible that we have such a low view and wrong view of God? Because too many families have forsaken the responsibility to teach their children.

5. The IMPACT of this school

Parents may wonder as their children grow up if they are accomplishing anything, but God gives us great encouragement in verses 25-30.

A. Parents should *expect* their children to ask questions (vs. 20)

B. Parents should *be prepared* to answer their questions (vs. 21-25)

By nature, children are observant and inquisitive. God gives us teachable moments in the home. We should expect that and be prepared for it. Parents will acknowledge that their children should read and study their Bible, but parents need to read and study their Bible too. Moses told the people after they observed the first Passover and came out of Egypt that their children would ask their parents what this annual feast meant.

Exodus 13:14 *And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

I am thankful for VBS, SS, and AWANA. They are all wonderful and God uses them all, but they are no substitute for Bible training in the home.