

Session 4 – Let People Know You Really, Really Love God (“Gatepost” Statements)

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Discuss:

- What is the main thing God wants from his people?
- Who does he want us to communicate this to? (Look, especially, at verses 8-9)
- How can we do that today, in our culture?

Watch: Video #4 – “Gatepost” Statements

Practice:

Individually, list 2-3 questions you are frequently asked:

1) _____?

2) _____?

3) _____?

How can you respond to each of these questions in a way that lets people know you really, really love God? This is like writing on the gatepost in verse 9 to let everyone who passes by know you are a person who loves and follows God. So, we call them “Gatepost” statements. Make sure your responses are welcoming; not divisive. Get feedback from the rest of the group to make sure you’re not creating barriers.

1) _____.

2) _____.

3) _____.

Pair up and practice. Have your partner ask one of the questions, you give the “Gatepost” response. Get suggestions on how to be more natural and less preachy. Practice until you feel comfortable. Switch roles and let your partner practice. If you have time, switch partners and repeat.

Homework: Your assignment this week (and every week, from now on) is to be alert for the questions you’ve listed. When you are asked one of them, respond with the “gatepost” response you practiced today. Watch how your hearers react. You may need to make adjustments if you are not communicating what you want. Take note of those who respond positively, and pray about what your next steps should be.