



Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Shema

problem:

How can a holy God have a relationship with fallen, sinful people?

solution:

Through promises of faithfulness and commitment.

problem:

How can fallen, sinful people have a relationship with a holy God?

problem:

How can fallen, sinful people have a relationship with a holy God?

solution:

Listen (*Shema*)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

4 “Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one. 5 You shall love YHWH 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.

Hear God's promise of love

Deuteronomy 6:4

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Deuteronomy 6:4

4 “Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one.

YHWH our God is one YHWH

YHWH is our God, YHWH is one

YHWH is our God, YHWH alone

Hearing calls for a response



- ❖ Hearing
- ❖ Understanding
- ❖ Responding

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

James 1:22-25

“Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”

‘Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not

“Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.

Isaiah 6:10; Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2

We respond to God's faithful, covenant love by loving Him with all our heart, soul, and might

Deuteronomy 6:5

v. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Keep your **heart** (*lev*) with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

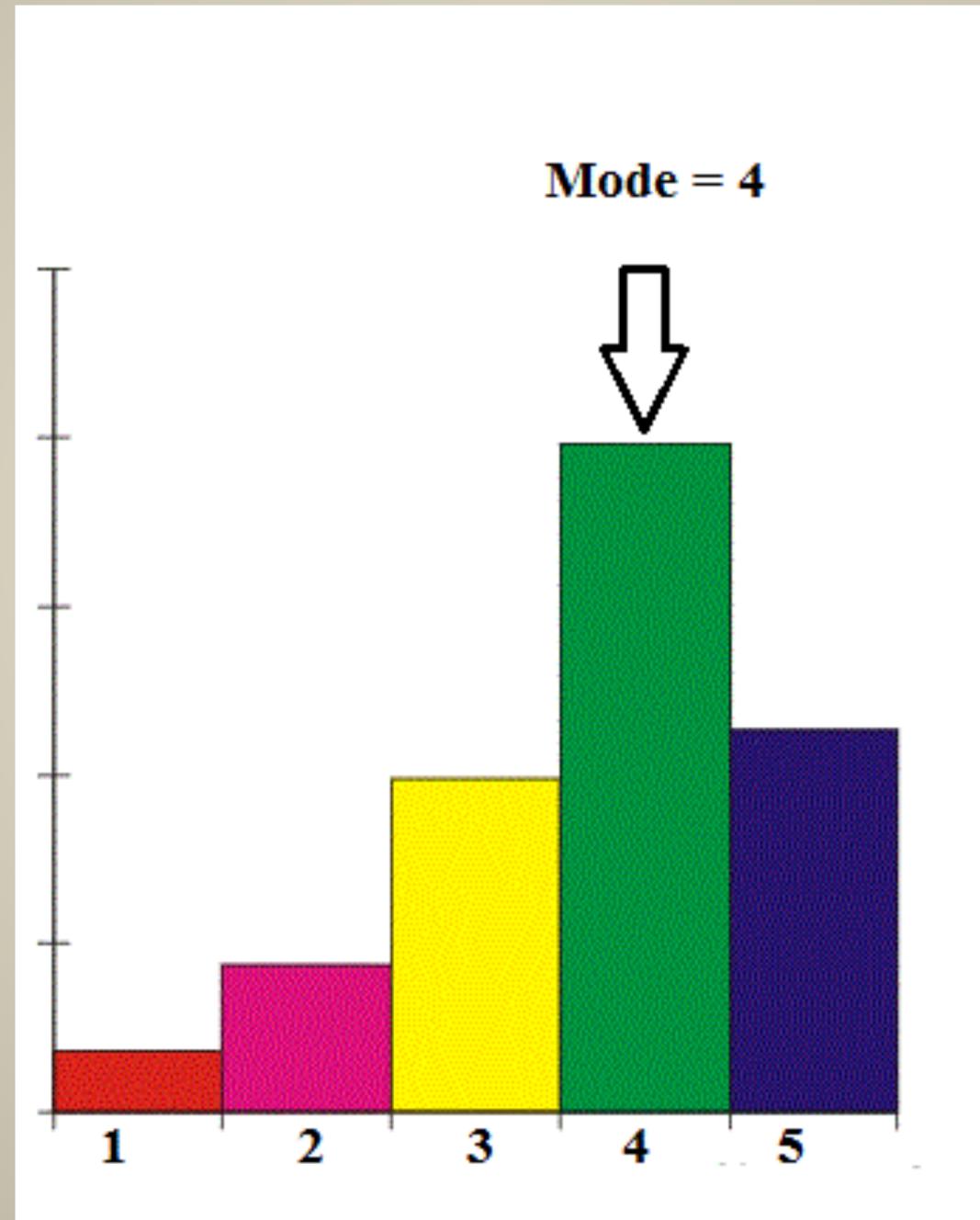
1 As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my **soul** (*nephesh*) for you, O God.

2 My **soul** (*nephesh*) thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 42:1-2

Might (*me'od*) = "muchness"



Whole-life, whole-person love for God means...



Exclusivity

My beloved is mine, and I am his

Song of Solomon 2:16

10 “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you— with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— 15 **for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God**—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

Whole-life, whole-person love for God means...

- ✦ Exclusivity
- ✦ Unity / integrity

We will listen better when we keep on hearing

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

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.



Dallas Willard

The Spirit of the Disciplines

“The disciplines promised to give our lives a form that would serve as a receptacle for the substance of the Christ-life in God’s present Kingdom. To undertake the disciplines was to take our activities—our lives—seriously and to suppose that the following of Christ was at least as big a challenge as playing the violin or jogging.”



Dallas Willard

The Spirit of the Disciplines

“A discipline for the spiritual life is, when the dust of history is blown away, nothing but an activity undertaken to bring us into more effective cooperation with Christ and his Kingdom. When we understand that grace (charis) is gift (charisma), we then see that to grow in grace is to grow in what is given to us of God and by God. The disciplines are then, in the clearest sense, a means to that grace and also to the gifts. Spiritual disciplines, ‘exercises unto godliness,’ are only activities undertaken to make us capable of receiving more of his life and power without harm to ourselves or others.”

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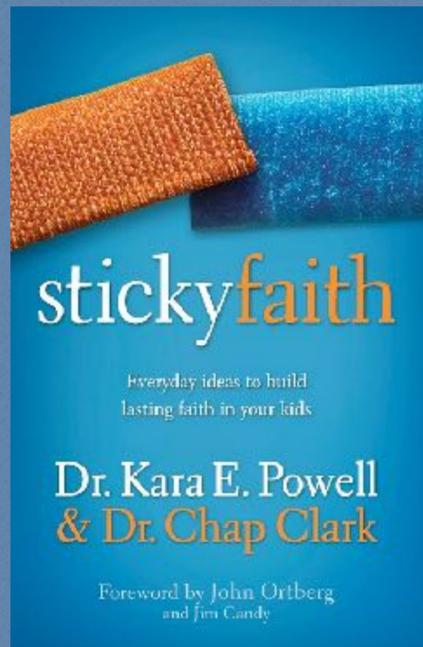


Daniel Block

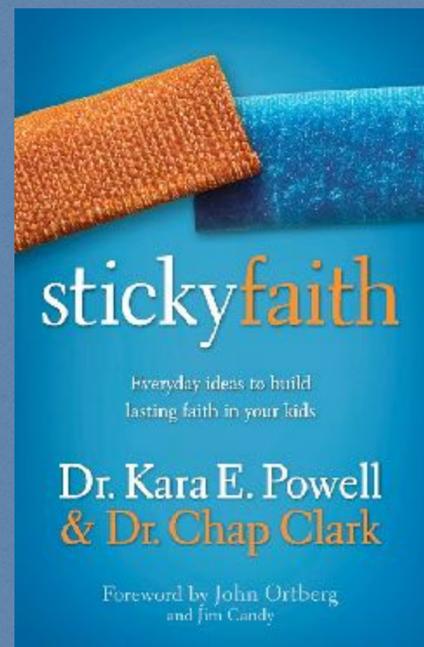
“...orthodox Jews recite the Shema twice daily as part of their prayers in the morning when they wake up, and at night before they fall asleep.... In so doing they take "the yoke of the kingdom," which is to say that they place themselves under the sovereignty and kingship of Yahweh. The Shema is as close as early Judaism came to the formulation of a creed.”

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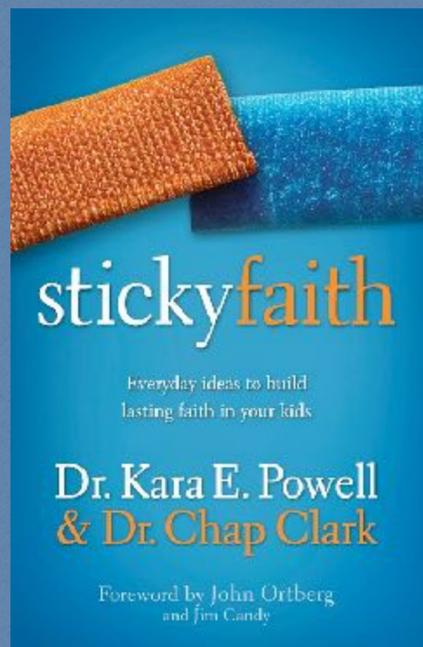


“sociologist Dr. Christian Smith from the University of Notre Dame concluded: ‘Most teenagers and their parents may not realize it, but a lot of research in the sociology of religion suggests that the most important social influence in shaping young people’s religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.’ Christian Smith put it even more simply and succinctly while speaking as part of a panel with Chap Clark and me: ‘When it comes to kids’ faith, parents get what they are.’”



“According to the Search Institute’s nationwide study of 11,000 teenagers from 561 congregations across 6 denominations, 12 percent of youth have a regular dialogue with their mom on faith / life issues.³ In other words, one out of eight kids talks with Mom about faith.”

“It’s far lower for dads. One out of twenty, or 5 percent, of kids have regular faith / life conversations with Dad. One additional interesting statistic: Approximately 9 percent of teenagers engage in regular reading of the Bible and devotions with their families. So not even one out of ten teenagers looks at Scripture with their parents. When it comes to matters of faith, mum’s usually the word at home.”



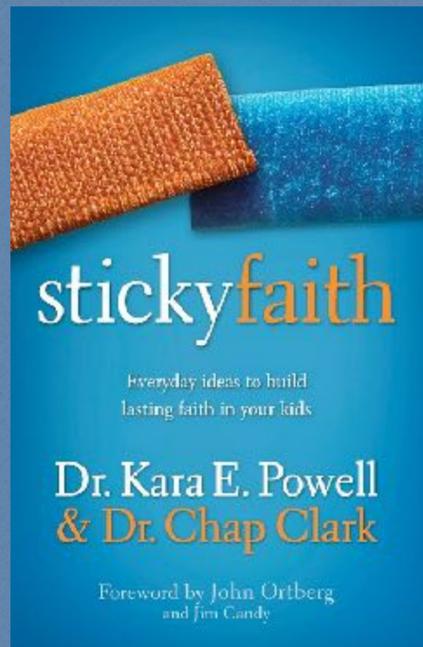
“The best discussions about faith happen when parents don’t just ask questions, but also share their own experiences.

...Our research shows that asking these questions can pay off. But what is vital to Sticky Faith is that parents also share about their own faith.

In other words, parents shouldn’t merely interview their kids; they need to discuss their own faith journeys, including both ups and downs.”

Deuteronomy 6:20-25

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.’



“In fact, as important as the kids answering that question is that they hear Dave and me answer that question every day.”