



from the desk of
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Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads, Pt. 1

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV) 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 ***Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*** 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

These Old Testament parents were to literally wear a portion of God's Word on their bodies to help them remember who they were as God's people. They chose to use the following four sections of Scripture: Exodus 13:2-10 and 11-16, Deuteronomy 6:1-8 and Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

Today a word on Exodus 13:2-10, below in part:

"Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand.....When the LORD brings you into the land he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey--you are to observe this ceremony in this month....On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt....."

This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand.....And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."

They were to take effort to remember what God had done for them.

So what do we do today to "remember what God has done for us?"

As New Testament Christians we have a "remembrance" of what God has done for us each week as we have an opportunity to worship. Your attitude of and toward worship is something that your children will notice. We often see ourselves in the behavior of our children. It is good that what they pick up be something positive!

Second, this section from Exodus is personal - they were literally wearing these verses on themselves. Today we can make our faith personal to our children by living our faith during the week (it's not just for Sunday, after all, and these verses would make long sections to have tattooed on your arm!). We can make our faith personal to our children through faith conversations with them. You can comment on something in the news and how it squares with Biblical teachings. You could talk about what your faith means to you on a daily basis. How powerful would that be?

So how to you get started? Maybe sharing these verses above with your children. I offer a "Thought for the Day" on the church Facebook page, which is simply a short verse with some discussion questions. Assuming you have a smartphone, you can download the LCMS app and through this have a daily devotional from Lutheran Hour Ministries (it doesn't give discussion questions but wouldn't take much to

come up with something).

So the encouragement is to "wear" your faith through your actions - you and your children will be blessed for it!

DCE Randy