



**SHINY OBJECTS | PLASTIC DONUTS | Week 4**  
**June 2, 2019**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 12:2; Luke 12:13-21**

**Opening:** In this series we have considered distractions that get in the way of our devotion to God. We have considered our general awareness of what we value and what may even enslave us if we get too distracted. We have discussed scripture's direct instruction regarding money and debt, again in the context of the distraction of our "material life." Using the metaphor of seeds and planting we asked, "What are we doing with the "seeds" God has given us?" Today we turn inward, seeking to find the true source of our security, status, and significance. We ask again, "Am I **distracted** from God and the abundant life that Jesus intends, to which I want to be **devoted**?"

**Context:** Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. *We consider today our HEART. What does it mean to "love with all your heart?" How do we cultivate that?*

**An Attitude of Distraction:** Pastor Eric Camfield opens with, "The things that capture our attention, our eyes, our ears, our minds, our time, and our resources." *What comes to mind when you hear this?*

**"Play Kitchen" Sharing:** Pastor Eric shares a selfless, joyful act of giving by re-counting the story of the plastic kitchen his children had and the plastic food that they prepared for him when they were young. Their attitude of giving was remarkable. *How would you describe this kind of action in your experience with children? What makes it special? What changes it?*

**Spiritual Formation:** Read Romans 12:2. Dallas Willard defines spiritual formation as: "The process (or intentional journey) by which one moves and is moved from self-worship (self at the center) to a Christ-centered, surrendered life, seeking to do His will." *How is this like "play kitchen sharing?" What is the "joyful act" in each case?*

**What has your HEART chosen?:** Pastor Eric quotes Dallas Willard again, "He [God] responds to the heart because it is, above all, who we are: who we choose and have chosen to be." *Who has your heart chosen to be? Who do you see yourself becoming over the next six months?*

**An Attitude of Devotion:** Children in play kitchens practice devotion. They will give joyfully, unselfishly, loving with all their HEART, to their guests (Mommy and Daddy). Pastor Eric said, "To love God with all your HEART, soul, mind and strength (as Jesus says) means to have Jesus at the center of your life so everything in your life flows from God." *What gets in the way of this for you? What shiny-objects have you become aware of in these past weeks? How do you plan on cultivating a heart GIVEN to God?*



**An Attitude of Heart:** Read Luke 12:16-21. We discussed this passage last week in terms of “abundant life.” This week Pastor Camfield calls us to motivation. *“Is not rich toward God,” is the attitude that is condemned. Are you rich towards God? How do you know? What demonstrates your generosity toward a Christ-centered life?*

**An Overflow of Heart:** Pastor Eric says this, “we live from the overflow of our hearts. How we think. What we say. How we invest our time. How we invest our resources. How we give.” *Recount a story where you have seen this—in your life or others. How did you feel? How was it “joyful” and “self-less?”*

**Acceptable Gifts:** Jeff Anderson, in his book, *Plastic Donuts* explains that “acceptable” had a much larger meaning in the scripture than it does today. We think of “good enough” but scripture meant delightful, perfect, etc. Pastor Eric asked you to consider the AMOUNTS and the PRIORITIES and the UNIQUE ABILITIES you have chosen for gifts given...time, talent, money. *What stirred in you as he asked this? Do you consider the AMOUNTS and the PRIORITIES and the UNIQUE ABILITIES you have chosen to give God as “acceptable” in the biblical definition? Why or why not?*

**Thanksgiving to God.** Our gifts flow out of our heart, out of our Thanksgiving and Joy. *Pray God will give you that Joy, pray as a group to be drawn into devotion and a life of generosity from the heart and guard against distractions.*

### **Practice of the Week: An Overflow of Heart**

Part of the distraction we fight is caused by our blessedness. We have so many things to be thankful for and God continues to be present with us.....are we aware? For this week, each morning pray the Lords Prayer. Go phrase by phrase. Keep a notebook nearby and write down anything that you are grateful for. Pause especially on “give me this day my daily bread” (what you need today) and “lead me not into temptation and deliver me from evil” (what to avoid today). Out of the gratitude of your heart flows your life given to God.

### **Family Formation: Love with all your Heart**

What can we pray about? Using last week’s posted prayer requests, talk about things going on and pray for requests and thanksgiving where appropriate. Ask your kids what would be “terrible” if you didn’t have it. What thing(s) in their life is really important and they would absolutely miss if they didn’t have it. Then ask them to give thanks that they do have it. How many more things has God provided that we forget to thank Him for? Let that thanksgiving fill up your heart.

**Additional Resources:** *Renovation of the Heart*, by Dallas Willard.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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