



THE FAMILY OF GOD

Week 9 | Parenting Part 1: Proactive Discipleship

1. Catch Up On Life:

As a church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10, 15).

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- How are you doing?
- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- Do you have any practical needs? (If so, please visit our [Needs](#) page)

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Suggested time: 10-20 minutes

- **People:** Who in your life can you be building with right now? What does that look like during this season?
- **Plan:** Are there any rhythms planned (virtual or in-person) that we can invite these friends into? What spiritual conversations do you want to initiate with them soon?
- **Pray:** Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, opportunities to connect, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12, and James 1:22-25).

Suggested Time: 20-40 minutes

i. Scripture Discussion

Primary Passages: **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** and **Ephesians 6:4**

Read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** and **Ephesians 6:4** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?
- Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

ii. Sermon Discussion

What stood out to you from the sermon?

To recap, our call as the family of God is to be a multi-generational family where grace can flow down from one generation to the next.

According to our culture we tend to view parenting through one of the following visions below. Which of the following do you tend to believe? Why is that? How does that manifest itself?

- **The Trophy Vision** - “My children are a testament to my greatness.”
- **The Friend Vision** - “I’m here to be their buddy.”
- **The Boss Vision** - “My children work for me.”
- **The Convenience Vision** - “My children are an accessory to my life.”
- **The Happy Vision** - “I exist to make my kids happy.”
- **The Help ‘em Reach the Stars Vision** - “My kids are full of potential... I must set them up to succeed.”

In the sermon, we offered three aspects of proactive parenting to point our kids towards Jesus:

1. Model for them
2. Teach them
3. Establish rhythms

For parents, which of these comes easiest for you? Which of these is hardest for you? Why?

What’s one thing you can set in place this week to be more intentional in proactively parenting your kids?

For those without kids, how might you actively come alongside the parents in our church family and help them?

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God’s Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 10-20 minutes

The logo for 'Following Jesus Together' is written in a stylized, cursive font. 'Following' is on the top line, 'Jesus' is in the middle and larger, and 'Together' is on the bottom line.

For those participating in the Lent season through fasting, how’s that been going? What’s been challenging? What’s the Lord been teaching you?

followingjesustogether.com/fasting

- How are you doing abiding with Jesus this week in Scripture and prayer? (If you haven’t yet, consider following along in our Matthew Bible Reading Plan and working through our practice for this series, journaling.)
- What sin do you need to confess to God? What are you struggling to trust Jesus with this week? How can you give Him control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet “Go-to Verses for Gospel Fluency” at FollowingJesusTogether.com/confession)