

Small Group Guide

THE CHILD, THE HOME, AND THE CHURCH

The Church at Brook Hills, Scott Kindig June 5, 2011 Ephesians 6:1-4, Deuteronomy 6:1-9

This guide is a tool to help you lead your group into spiritual transformation. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Relate . . .

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

Welcome—*a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.*

Review—*a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.*

Prayer—*a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.*

Reflect . . .

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

Sermon Outline

The Gospel in your Family in a Messed up World

- Simple Reminders for context.
 - Everyone is Created in the Image of God! (Genesis 1:27-28)
 - Everyone is spiritually Wrecked by the Fall! (Genesis 3)
 - These realities have affected FAMILIES for all of human history!
 - God longs to get Glory through His Story of Redemption in & through your home!
 - God sends His Church to Champion His Mission to . . .
 - succeeding generations
 - all the nations/people groups
 - The Family and the Church CAN BE powerful partners in this Mission!

The Marks of the Gospel in Key Relationships – Ephesians 6:1-4

- The mark of the gospel amongst children is honoring obedience.
 - The Reason for Honoring Obedience? This is right!
 - The Result of Honoring Obedience? Long life
 - The Reality of Honoring Obedience? Ephesians 5:18
- The mark of the gospel among fathers (parents) is disciplined leadership.

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- Be a father (parents) that your children want to follow.
- Balance the need for nurture and discipline.
- Become a student of your children's heart.

Shared Purpose: The Community of Faith and the Home – Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- Deuteronomy 6 is a reminder to remember God for the next generation! Exodus 20
 - Remember the TRUTH about God that makes us a community
 - Hear O, Israel
 - Hear the Word, do the Word, multiply greatly, love Him completely
 - Hear O, Family
 - Teach them diligently to your children when you . . . ,
 - Sit down, walk around, lie down, rise up
 - Let others see them in you
 - Frontlets, hands, doorposts, gates
- How do we do this TODAY?
 - Recognize we are different!
 - Recognize that we are the same!
 - Access the God who loves you!
 - Access the help around you!
 - Be marked by the Gospel!
 - Be the mark of the Gospel!

Message Summary

Every person was created by God, in His image and for His glory. However, sin messed up everybody's inclination toward God, causing every person to be prone to sin and affecting all relationships including those within our homes. God created the home, though as part of his plan to reach all generations and nations with the gospel. Therefore, families must seek God's Word as instruction on how to live through the power of the Holy Spirit to make disciples in and through our homes. God's command for children is to obey their parents in a way that honors their parents. Parents are to provide discipline and instruction in the home in a way that nurtures and disciplines the child while guiding their hearts to follow God. In every aspect of life, parents are to model and teach the truth of God and His Word. All of us who are members of a local body of Christ have a responsibility to partner with parents to advance the gospel to the next generation and to help nurture children's faith in Christ. These roles cannot be lived as God intended without the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit

Discuss

Use the following questions to review the Head (What does God want me to know?), Heart (What does God want me to value?), and Hands (What does God want me to do?) aspects of the message.

- How is the family an integral part of God's mission to make disciples of all nations?
- How has our culture's redefinition of family affected our understanding of its purpose?
- Looking at our families' activities, recreation, time, and money, what changes in our families might need to take place so that we reflect this purpose better?
- How should the family's role in God's mission affect the way we parent? The way we grandparent? The way we interact with siblings, parents, and our extended family?
- Why must we realize our sinfulness and inadequacy to obey God's Word within our families?
- What is the difference in parenting in a way that leads to obedience by domination versus in a way that teaches obedience through honorably following?
- How does creating a placating environment in our home with very little discipline ultimately exasperate children? How does an environment of domination exasperate children? How could out-sourcing the spiritual instruction of our children to others also exasperate our children?
- How can parents discipline in a way that does not exasperate their children?

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- How can adult children honor their parents and maintain appropriate boundaries? What can parents of adult children do to help to make honoring them easier?
- Why must parents take time to learn the heart of each child? How can a child's heart direct the parent in appropriate disciplining and instruction? What things can parents do to begin to learn their children's hearts?
- How can we, as a community, come alongside and support family members who are sole believers in their families—children, teenagers, young adults, wives, husbands, senior adults, single moms or dads?
- Scott mentioned that both Psalms 78 and Deuteronomy 6 imply a community of faith responsibility for teaching the next generation about God from His Word. What might that look like for senior adults to own that responsibility? For single adults? For empty nesters? For parents who have children at home?
- How have our families, churches, and culture been affected by the gap in Titus 2 inter-generational discipleship? What are some practical ways you could implement a Titus 2 picture in your small group?

Respond . . .

Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- How do your thoughts need to adjust to align with these truths?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to value or desire?
- How do your values or desires need to change to align with His?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.

Weekly Prayer Focus . . . (from the worship guide)

- **Lives and Church:** *Please be in prayer for our existing and incoming elders. Specifically, pray that these men would model the character of Christ by faithfully walking in holiness and purity.*
- **Local:** *This week we are praying for the Deaf Church at Brook Hills and Pastor Richard B. Jones. This ministry coordinates a weekly worship gathering every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in our Student Center along with weekly small groups and many other outreach initiatives seeking to advance the gospel among the deaf community of Birmingham.*
- **Global:** *This week we are praying for the Master family, some of our field partners in East Asia. We are also praying for Brook Hill's teams in India and Macedonia.*