

Family Discipleship
Moments – Session 5

Family Discipleship Moments: Capturing and leveraging opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel-centered conversations. (Chandler & Griffin, *Family Discipleship*, p. 113)



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why we call it the present."
-Winnie the Pooh

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Last week, Cody taught the session on Time

- **Time** is about creating rhythms and structure for Family Discipleship in your lives,
- **Moments** are leveraging the everyday opportunities that God gives us to make small deposit of the Gospel in the lives of kids.

To Quote the great philosopher Winnie the Pooh, "Yesterday is History; Tomorrow is a mystery; Today is a gift; that is why they call it the present" (Not Original with him)

- Every day is a gift from God – We cannot take any of our parenting days for granted.

Consider that every moment you get with your kids is one less than you will ever have again.

- Slaps you right in the face...right out of the gate, right.
- Thanks, Matt! Thanks, Adam, for the reminder!
- Unlike **Time**, **Moments** do not happen at prearranged appointments. They are less predictable, but just as important...
- Why? Because -- **More is Caught than Taught!**

These moments are like Gospel Centered Deposits in the lives of our children – Author's Examples

- Praying over passing ambulance
- Stopping to smell and appreciate flowers as part of God's good design
- Point out someone's kind service to others as an example of what it looks like to follow Christ.
- What are some other moments you have thought about...moments during a typical day where you can community God's goodness, grace, or mercy?
- Or had the opportunity to take advantage of? (Audience Participation)

Moments might be used to Correct, Inform/Instruct, Encourage

- Can you think of an example...

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 - You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Four times to have Gospel Centered / Christ Centered Conversation

1. Sit in your House – Dinner Time
2. Walk by the Way – Drive Time
3. When you lie down – Night Time
4. When you rise up – Morning Time

Which of These Represent Time / Moments?

- Which is more important? Like asking which leg is more important for walking the right or the left?

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Set Reminders)

Think about this...

- In a moment of disobedience, you remind your child of what God has commanded and the forgiveness he freely offers.
- When your family is facing difficulty and confusion, you declare that God is always in charge and your hope is set on him.

Spontaneous, small, and simple conversations can remind your family of the truth of God without launching into a three-point sermon. **You simply point out what God is doing** and remind each other **what God has done, a testament to how the gospel applies to every moment of your lives.** You use your circumstances, as they unfold, to teach your family about the Lord and about themselves. (Ibid, 92)

- These are examples of what it means to bring children up on Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, Eph. 6:4
- This is bringing them up on Christ, not just bringing them up in Church.

Whereas Time – is Usually prescribed – Moments – “As you are going...”

Great Commission - **Matthew 28:19-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

- Go therefore and make disciples...
- Go is participle – lit. “as you are going”
- Gospel Centered / Christ Centered Conversations can happen **anytime & anywhere.**

Action Steps:

Be Alert

- It takes a high degree of readiness, vigilance, and a willingness to pause to take note of the evidence of God and application of the gospel nearby. (Ibid, p. 92)
- Don't overestimate these moments – Come and Go quickly
 - A single remark can change the trajectory of a person's life. In some ways this can be a little intimidating, but think of the awesome opportunity you have to be used as a gospel catalyst, a tiny spark of truth that ignites faith in your family. God can use one seemingly insignificant moment or ordinary conversation to create a cascading legacy, a chain reaction passing from generation to generation all started by planting a solitary seed of truth into your child's life today. (FD, pp. 92-93)

Pray for Moldable Hearts

- Pray that your child's heart will be good soil for the seeds of the gospel.
- Not hard ground, not stony ground, not ground filled with thorns and thistles (cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches).

Stop, Look, Listen, and Leverage

- Cody mentioned **Hebrews 12:1-2** - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 - This stage of your race is Rearing Children – Lay aside the weight and sin so you can run your race effectively
- Look for opportunities
- Listen to the Lord (Abide)
- Listen to your children
 - Since these moments come at anytime, be committed to being available.
 - When your children need a moment with you, you will want them to feel confident that your relationship with them makes you a safe person to approach as well as a safe person to be approached by.
- If they think every time you want to talk to them one-on-one it means they are in trouble, then they won't feel like they can initiate a conversation with you or feel secure hearing directly from you. Make it a habit to have regular one-on-one interaction built around encouragement and checking in. (Ibid, 92)

Two Key Components of Moments –

All of our spontaneous gospel interactions are attempts to communicate and teach two things – the Characteristics of God and Godly Character.

Characteristics of God – To Know God (Who is God? What has He done? What is He doing? What is He Like?)

What are the attributes of God you'd like your kids to be well aware of?

How you respond to them in their moment of disobedience, will portray how God responds.

- If you unload on them for a mistake, they will come believe that God is the same way.
- This may foster a sense of isolation (NOT GREAT WORDING) and shame (Adam/Eve in Garden) instead of producing desired repentance

Characteristics or Attributes of God

1. Wise. God knows what is best.
2. Generous. God gives what is best.
3. Loving. God does what is best.
4. Good. God is what is best.
5. Unchanging. God was, is, and always will be the same.
6. Creator. God made everyone and everything.
7. Just. God is right to punish sin.
8. Faithful. God always does what he says he will do.
9. Provider. God meets the needs of his children.
10. Merciful. God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.
11. Attentive. God hears and responds to the prayers of his children.
12. Almighty. Nothing is too hard for God.
13. Compassionate. God sees, cares, and acts when his children are in need.
14. Worthy. Only God deserves all glory.
15. Deliverer. God rescues his children.

Godly Character - To grow in godliness (Who am I? What has God called me to be? What has he asked of me? How can I become more like Him?)

What are character traits and fruits of the Spirit you'd like to see your kids exemplify?

Godly Character

Patience. Being slow to anger, waiting kindly and quietly.

Joy. Delighting in things that honor God.

Peace. A calm confidence in God's goodness and power.

Love. A caring commitment to God and others over yourself.

Goodness. Doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

Kindness. Being generous with your possessions, your words, and your actions.

Gentleness. Expressing compassion in words and actions.

Self-Control. Freedom from obedience to our sinful thoughts and emotions. (p. 123-124)

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

John 15:4-5 - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Questions to Consider as you prepare for Session 5 of Family Discipleship

1. Can you think of an unplanned event or conversation that has had a profound impact on your life? What was it?
2. Make a list of the goals you have in the discipleship of your family. Think about what you want your children to know and what you want to see formed in them.
3. Are there pervasive idols or ungodly habits in the life of your household that could be addressed with kind words in a family discipleship moment?
4. What are the attributes of God you'd like your kids to be well aware of?
5. What are character traits and fruits of the Spirit you'd like to see your kids exemplify?