faith at HOME

Sunday Morning Study: Rooms 1 Through 4

TODAY

Intro/Review/Preview - 10 Minutes

Conversations: What it looks like - 15 Minutes

Practice Conversations - 15 Minutes

Ideas & Suggestions - 15 Minutes

REVIEW

REVIEW

WEEK
3

Beautiful Mundane

LAST WEEK

Speaking of
MESSY
PRAYERS

“If applying spiritual disciplines together in your household seems like a daunting new endeavor, remember that this household habit is really quite old and is how God intended households to function from the very beginning...

GOD'S WORD ON PRAYER/SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:16 (NIV): "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

GOD'S WORD ON PRAYER/SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV): "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

GOD'S WORD ON PRAYER/SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:20 (NIV): "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

An Amazingly Awkward Prayer
Share
Watch on YouTube

YOUR HOUSEHOLD RELATING TO GOD TOGETHER

ARRANGE THE KINDLING:

- "Insert an occasional prayer at specific times"
- "Get some words of scripture up on the wall"
- "Spend time together playing, eating, having fun" (Remember connection between spending time together and doing spiritual activities together"

ADD ANOTHER LOG:

- "Start inserting short, momentary prayers into your common life. For example, if someone mentions they've had a bad day or are nervous about an upcoming event, just "go live" and say a quick prayer for them on the spot."
- "Pray a quick blessing for people who are headed out the door. Blessings can be as brief as "May God bless you and give you what you need for your big day." Simply start with the words "May God . . ." and then finish the sentence."

STOKE THE FIRE:

"Purposefully extend your household. Bring more Christians into your household by inviting people over for a meal or event. Host a prayer event or regular Bible study in your home. Bringing the sacred into your own secular home can fight against the temptation of the sacred-secular split."

"Together, volunteer for an event that will involve moments of prayer and time in the Bible. For example, you could all volunteer at your church's Vacation Bible School or go on a short-term mission trip together."

Everts, Don. The Spiritually Vibrant Home: The Power of Messy Prayers, [illegible]rs (Lutheran Hour Ministries Resources) (p. 99). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

WHEN IN DOUBT..

START WITH PRAYER

The Study... Or is It?*

~~March 3 – Intro – Abiding / Threats to Abiding~~

~~March 10 – Defining who's in my household?~~

~~March 17 – Building Strong Foundations~~

~~March 24 – Prayer in the Household~~

~~March 31 – Easter – No Class~~

TODAY: April 8 - Faith-filled Conversations

April 15 - Cultivating a Spirit of Gratitude as a Household

April 22 - The Role of Prayer

*Class subject to change based off of the make-up & needs of the group

TODAY

A CONTINUATION OF LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

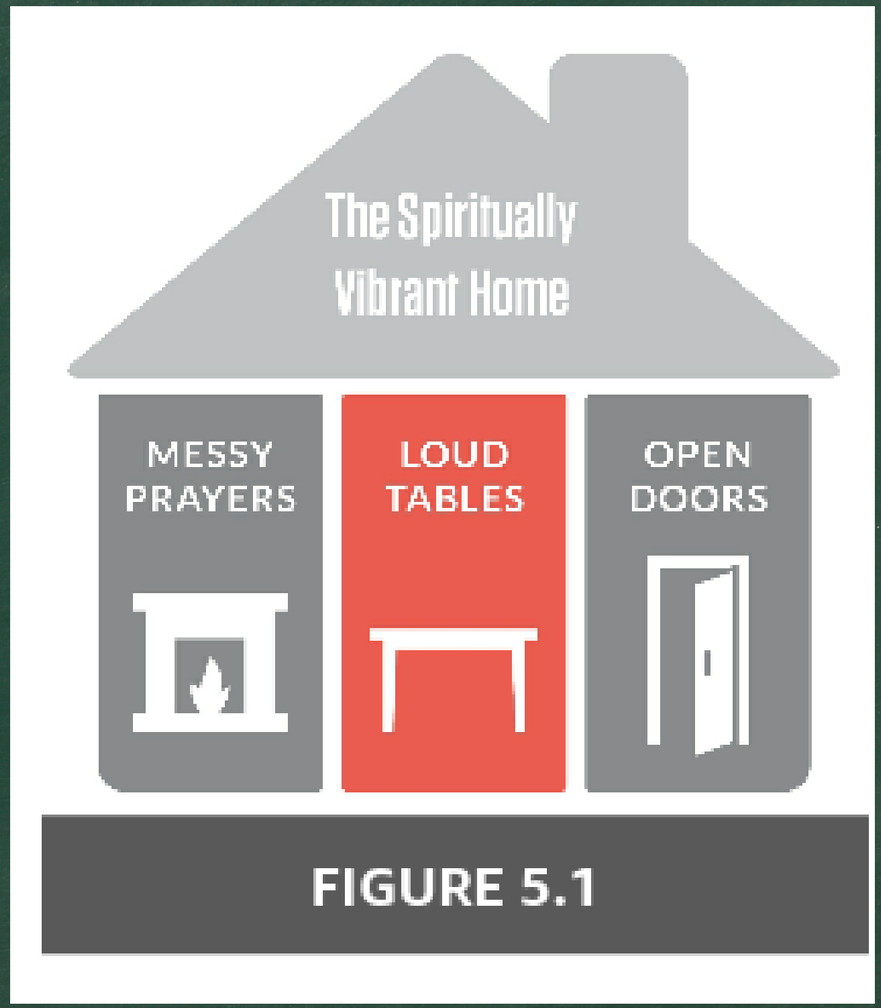
How do we intentionally relate to God as a household together?

Specifically in our conversations with each other!

LOUD TABLES

Can you think of a significant spiritual conversation you've had with someone?

WHY "LOUD TABLES"?



CONVERSATION MATTERS

Healthy “non-faith related” conversations, along with conversations about faith, MATTER

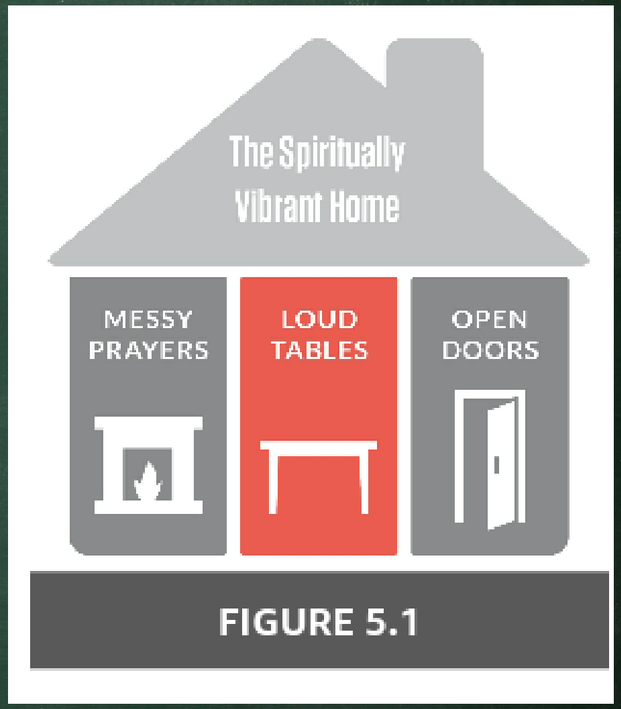


FIGURE 5.1

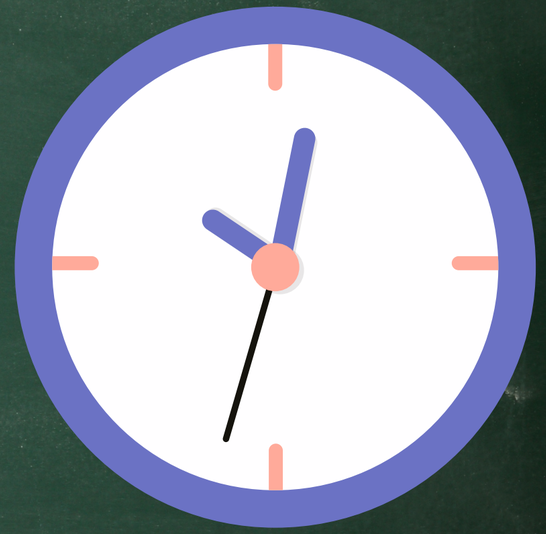
CONVERSATION MATTERS

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV): "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 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."

REASONS SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS DON'T OCCUR

TIME & PRIORITIES

- Overscheduled?
  - "Two Ships Passing.."
- Other things seem more important



REASONS SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS DON'T OCCUR

SPACE / SETTING / FEEL

- Just Doesn't Feel Right/Natural

REASONS FOR AVOIDING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

FEAR

Not Saying the Right Thing

Not “having the answers”

Awkward?!

REASONS FOR AVOIDING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

FEAR

REASONS FOR AVOIDING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

ANY OTHERS?

“But our conversations (especially our spiritual ones) don’t work that way. There’s no conversation remote control. There’s no cued-up menu of conversation options waiting for us to choose from…

...No, conversations are a group sport—they implicitly involve conversation partners who can't be controlled like a television. It is possible to pursue or nurture or spark a conversation, but it is rarely helpful to try to force one—especially a deeper spiritual conversation.

Again, the image of the meal at a table is helpful. You can invite people to a table, you can invite them to eat, but ultimately you can't force food (even really good food) into someone's mouth! No one would stand for that—even if the food would be good for them. You can't force it."

Everts, Don. The Spiritually Vibrant Home: The Power of Messy Prayers, Loud Tables, and Open Doors (Lutheran Hour Ministries Resources) (p. 130). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

LET'S TALK! (15 Minutes)

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

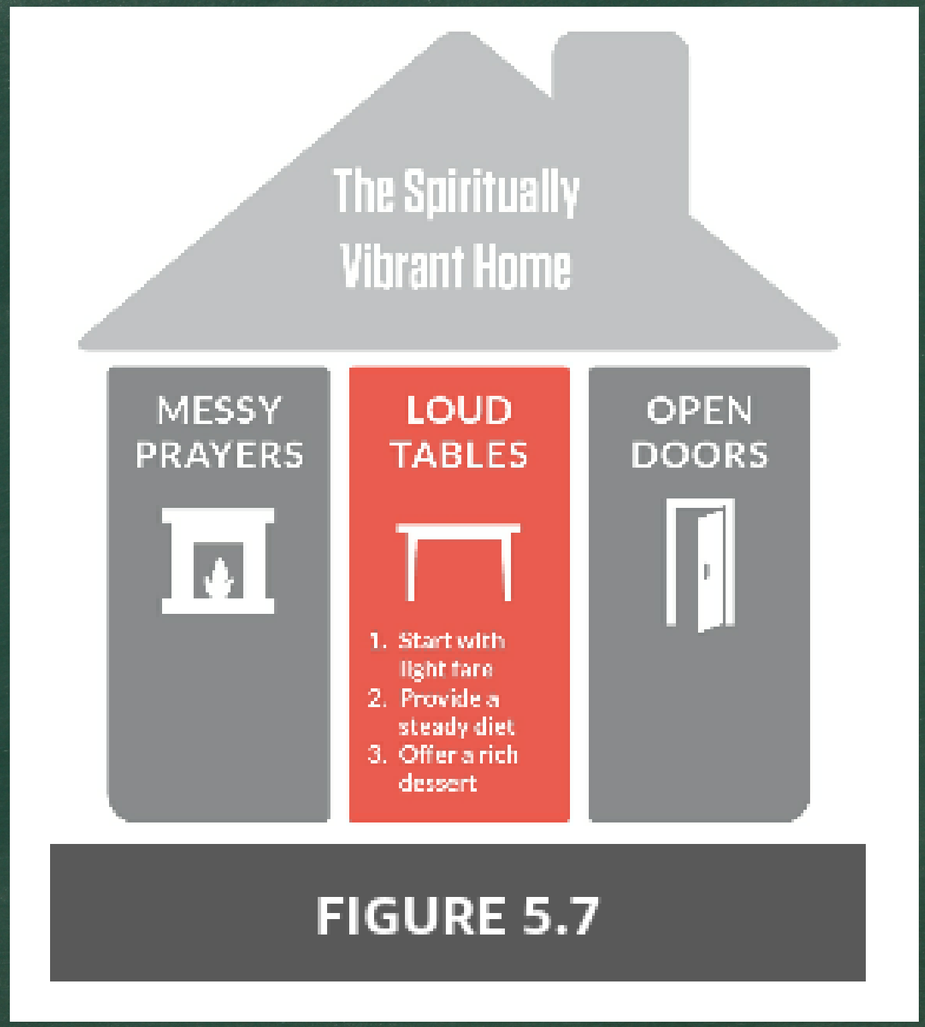


FIGURE 5.7

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

"It is a tender thing to get a household talking with each other, engaging in spiritual conversations—especially if this isn't the normal practice in a household. You can't force it. But you can whet people's appetites for it by engaging in lighter, shorter conversations."

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

Ask a question about a recent shared experience. What did you think of the movie?

Share a story from your day. You'll never guess what happened to me today

Everts, Don. The Spiritually Vibrant Home: The Power of Messy Prayers, Loud Tables, and Open Doors (Lutheran Hour Ministries Resources) (pp. 132-133). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

Use shared drive time to process your day with each other.

Use some premade conversation starters at mealtime.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

. . . If you have a pet, take them on a walk or to a park with other members of your household.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

START LIGHT

Start giving deeper words of encouragement to people in your household:

- Tychicus (Colossians 4:7-9; Ephesians 6:21-22)

-In Scripture.. “encourage one another” (1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Hebrews 3:13)

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

PROVIDE A STEADY DIET

-Offer Weekly Check-In

-If household goes to church, have a meal afterward & talk about sermon

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

PROVIDE A STEADY DIET

-Ask Household How You can be praying for them?

-Deeper Pre-made Conversation Starters

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

- Go out to a one-on-one meal with someone in your household. (Jesus / Peter)

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

– Invite some innately deep, spiritual, mature Christian friends to a meal with your household—their natural depth creates space for others to follow suit.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

- Explicitly invite your household into a deeper conversation on special occasions.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

- Write a long, thoughtful letter to someone in your household and see how they respond. Sometimes communicating in a written format gives people more time and space to get honest.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

- Do a craft together where you each have to create a picture or poem or small sculpture that represents, for example, how your faith is doing.

STRATEGIES FOR CONVERSATION

OFFER A RICH DESSERT

- Go camping or hiking—an extended group activity that is screen-free and provides plenty of unhurried time for conversation.

....Your household is made for this!”

“Not only is your household made to have spiritual conversations, but Jesus came to help us do just that. When we seek to grow and nurture our household’s relationships with each other, we are simply joining Jesus in what he is working toward with us every day.”