

In what ways might your home currently be child-centered or me-centered rather than Christ-centered, and what specific changes could shift that focus?

How do the algorithms and content your family consumes on devices disciple you and your children, and what boundaries might need to be established?

What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God, and how does that distinction show up in your daily life?

If your children only learned about faith from what they observe in your life rather than what you tell them, what would they conclude about following Jesus?

How can you incorporate the Deuteronomy 6 rhythms of sitting at home, walking along the road, lying down, and getting up into your family's spiritual formation?

What does it mean that you cannot pass on what you do not personally possess when it comes to faith, and how does that challenge your own spiritual walk?

In what ways has culture filled the gaps where intentional spiritual discipleship has been absent in your home?

How might praying for knowledge, wisdom, and understanding from Colossians 1:9 transform your approach to parenting and family leadership?

What would it look like practically to make your dinner table or living room the most important discipleship environment rather than relying on church programs?

How does the truth that God's grace is bigger than your parenting free you to start fresh in pointing your home toward Christ, regardless of past mistakes?

Family in the Fire: Discipling Our Families

Small Group Guide

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by praying together, asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to give wisdom for applying these truths to your families.

ICEBREAKER (10 minutes)

Question: What is one thing from your childhood that significantly shaped who you are today? Was it something taught to you or something you observed?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This sermon challenged us to examine what is at the center of our homes. Are we building child-centered homes, me-centered homes, or Christ-centered homes? The message emphasized that our children are constantly being disciplined by something or someone, and we must be intentional about making our homes places where faith is learned and lived out daily.

Key Scripture: Colossians 1:9-12; Deuteronomy 6:6-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1: Identifying the Center (15 minutes)

1. **The pastor mentioned three types of homes: child-centered, me-centered, and Christ-centered. If you're honest, which one best describes your home right now? Why?**
2. **The sermon stated, "The center of your home shapes the direction of your children." What evidence do you see in your home (or homes you've observed) that supports this statement?**
3. **How have you seen technology and social media disciple either yourself or your children? What specific influences concern you most?**

Part 2: Learning Together (15 minutes)

4. Paul prays in Colossians 1:9 for believers to be filled with "knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." What's the difference between these three things, and why do we need all three?
5. The sermon said, "There's a world of difference between knowing about God and knowing God." How would you explain this difference? Which one better describes your current relationship with God?
6. When was the last time you learned something new from God's Word outside of a Sunday service? What barriers keep you from regular time in Scripture?

Part 3: Living It Out (20 minutes)

7. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 describes discipleship happening in everyday moments: "when you sit at home, when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." What are the natural rhythms in your home where spiritual conversations could happen?
8. The pastor said, "What you model will far outweigh what you mandate." What is one area where you need to "go first" in modeling faith for your family?
9. For those with children still at home: What is one practical step you could take this week to make discipleship more "normal" in your daily routine?
10. For those whose children are grown or who don't have children: How can you apply these principles to other relationships where you have spiritual influence (grandchildren, nieces/nephews, younger believers, etc.)?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Our homes already have a center—we're not deciding if, but what it is
 - ✓ Children are always being discipled by something or someone
 - ✓ A Christ-centered home learns together from God's Word
 - ✓ A Christ-centered home lives out God's Word in everyday moments
 - ✓ Discipleship is not an event or program—it's a lifestyle
 - ✓ We cannot pass on what we do not personally possess
 - ✓ God's grace is bigger than our parenting failures
-

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Individual Commitments:

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

- **Personal Reset:** Establish a daily time to read God's Word personally
- **Prayer Practice:** Pray over your children/family members by name before bed each night
- **Dinner Table Discipleship:** Ask one faith-based question at a family meal this week
- **Sunday Follow-up:** Discuss the sermon or what kids learned in children's ministry on the way home from church
- **Memory Verse:** Post a verse somewhere prominent in your home and work on memorizing it as a family
- **Device Audit:** Evaluate screen time (yours and your children's) and set healthy boundaries
- **Serve Together:** Find one opportunity to serve as a family this month

Group Challenge:

Share your commitment with at least one other person in the group for accountability. Exchange contact information and check in with each other mid-week.

CLOSING REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Read together: Joshua 24:15 - "Choose this day whom you will serve... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Reflection Questions:

- What is one thing God is specifically calling you to change about the center of your home?
 - What is your biggest fear or obstacle in making this change?
 - How can this group support and pray for you?
-

PRAYER TIME (10 minutes)

Break into groups of 2-3 and pray specifically for:

- Wisdom and understanding in parenting/spiritual leadership
- Courage to reset homes around Christ

- Protection for children from negative influences
 - Consistency in personal walk with God
 - Specific family situations shared during discussion
-

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

- **Read:** Deuteronomy 6:1-25 and journal about what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength
 - **Practice:** Implement the one commitment you chose above
 - **Prepare:** Be ready to share one "win" and one challenge from the week
-

LEADER NOTES

Sensitive Topics to Navigate:

- Some group members may feel guilt or shame about past parenting failures
- Others may have adult children who have walked away from faith
- Some may not have children and could feel excluded
- Blended families or single parents may face unique challenges

Remember to:

- Emphasize God's grace throughout the discussion
 - Celebrate small steps and progress
 - Avoid judgment or comparison
 - Make space for various family situations
 - Point people to Christ, not perfect parenting
-

"Faithful children don't happen by accident. They're formed on purpose."

5-Day Family Discipleship Bible Reading Plan

Day 1: The Foundation of a Christ-Centered Home

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Devotional: Joshua's declaration "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" wasn't a suggestion—it was a decision. Every home already has a center; the question is what that center will be. Moses instructed Israel to make God's commands central to daily life: in conversation, at bedtime, during travel, at meals. This wasn't about perfection but intentionality. Today, examine what truly sits at the center of your home. Is it schedules, entertainment, or Christ? The foundation you build today shapes the faith your children carry tomorrow. Don't wait for the perfect moment—begin now to reorient your home around God's Word and His presence in everyday rhythms.

Reflection: What currently occupies the center of your home? What one change could you make today to move Christ closer to that center?

Day 2: Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding

Reading: Colossians 1:9-14; Proverbs 2:1-6

Devotional: Paul's prayer for the Colossians reveals the pathway to spiritual maturity: knowledge of God's will, spiritual wisdom, and understanding. Knowledge comes from God alone—He is the source of all truth. Wisdom is the right application of that knowledge in daily life. Understanding means living out what we know, shunning evil and pursuing holiness. You cannot give your children what you don't possess. Just as one meal a week leaves the body malnourished, one spiritual meal on Sunday leaves families spiritually weak. The world disciples our children daily through screens, peers, and culture. Will we disciple them more intentionally through God's Word? Commit to seeking God's knowledge daily, not for information alone, but for transformation.

Reflection: When was the last time you learned from God's Word outside of Sunday? What daily rhythm could you establish to seek His wisdom?

Day 3: Going First—Modeling Faith

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Devotional: "Follow my example as I follow Christ" is a sobering call to spiritual leadership. Children learn more from what they see than what they hear. You can tell your kids that God matters, but if they don't see it in your life, they won't believe it. Going first doesn't mean being perfect—it means showing clear direction. When your children wake up and see you reading Scripture, when they hear you pray openly, when they watch you serve others, they witness faith in action. What you model will outweigh what you mandate. Your casual faith produces their optional faith. Your inconsistent faith creates their fragile faith. The greatest gift you can give your children is a front-row seat to your authentic pursuit of Jesus.

Reflection: What aspect of your faith do your children see most clearly? What would they say is most important to you based on your actions?

Day 4: Making Discipleship Normal

Reading: Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Psalm 78:1-7

Devotional: Discipleship isn't an event, program, or class—it's a lifestyle woven into everyday moments. Moses identified natural rhythms: waking up, lying down, walking along the road, sitting at home. These become sacred opportunities for spiritual formation. Your dinner table, car rides to school, bedtime routines—these are your primary discipleship environments. Culture discipled our children constantly through algorithms designed to shape their beliefs and desires. Will we be equally intentional? You don't need to be a Bible scholar; you need an open Bible and a willing heart. Create space for questions, doubts, and wrestling with truth. Let Scripture inform your responses to everyday dilemmas. Make God's Word so present that it becomes the family's natural reference point.

Reflection: Which daily rhythm in your home could become a consistent discipleship opportunity? How will you begin this week?

Day 5: Never Too Late—God's Grace in Parenting

Reading: Lamentations 3:22-23; Joel 2:25-27

Devotional: Perhaps you're replaying missed opportunities, seasons you wish you'd handled differently, or years when Christ wasn't central. Hear this truth: God's grace is bigger than your parenting. You are not your children's savior—Jesus is. His mercies are new every morning, and He specializes in restoration. It is never too late to start pointing your home toward Him. Whether your children are toddlers or adults, whether they're thriving spiritually or wandering far, your faithful pursuit of Christ still matters. Reset today. Pray over your children by name. Open God's Word. Take one step toward making Christ central. What you don't address, culture will—but what you surrender to God, He can redeem. Choose this day whom you will serve.

Reflection: What do you need to surrender to God's grace regarding your family? What is one step you can take today to reset your spiritual leadership at home?