

The Family: God's Greenhouse

Module 1 - Class 1

Heart Work

This week in your devotional time, pray to the Lord and ask Him to show you where you need more of the gospel in your life. Specifically...

- Are there any parts of your life where you have unintentionally embraced the idea that God saves us, but now the rest of it is up to me? Do you see this idea at all in the lives of your children?
- Do you tend to be someone that camps out on your lostness and the depths of your sin? What are some of the effects of having this perspective of focusing on your sin?
- Pray this week that God would open your eyes to His love and grace and your identity as a child of God.
- Conversely, do you tend to be someone who doesn't reflect on the sinfulness of your flesh? Pray this week that God would reveal to you the depths of your heart's deceitfulness and you would be aware of His holiness. Ask Him to show you an area where your flesh tends to show up. (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Pray and ask the Lord to show you where you might be trusting your own feelings or thoughts about your performance and your identity instead of trusting a truth that the Lord has said is true of you as a new creation in Christ.
- Ask your spouse what they think. Remember, our hearts are deceitful and we are so good at deceiving ourselves (Jer. 17:9), so getting a voice from outside is helpful.

Suggested Scripture memorization:

Colossians 2:6 "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him..."

Optional Small Group Heart Work or Deep Dive

Listen to [Marriage Counseling Training - Class 3](#)

In the class recording...

What did John mean when he said "conviction is a diving board"?

In what areas of your life with your spouse or children do you tend to excuse, minimize, or evade conviction?

How does understanding my identity help me with conviction I experience from the Holy Spirit?

What else resonated with you from his class?

How would your table summarize the gospel? Please use relevant verses.

Class 1 – Gospel and Position

Herbert, 44 serves actively in a couple of different ministries in church. He's very busy helping and often likes to be in charge of teams. He has strong opinions and is well-known for his high standards. It has been hard for him to keep teams very consistent year to year. He and Glenda have been married for 20 years and have three children aged 18, 16, and 12. He runs a tight ship at home as well and Glenda has occasionally confided to friends that Herbert can be frequently critical, both with her performance and the behavior and choices of their kids. She worries that their older teens don't have much of a relationship with Herbert and there is an increasing coldness present in the home.

What could be going on with Herbert's thinking and his understanding of the Gospel and identity truths?

What specific biblical truths could help bring abundant life to Herbert's life?

Angelica is 42 and a mother of 2 children. She was raised in a faithful home and has walked faithfully with Christ through her adolescence and adulthood. She and her husband Tom serve in several capacities in the church and lead a community group. Both Angelica and Tom are people whom their friends naturally turn to for godly counsel. Over the last few months, her 17 year old son has made some unfortunate connections on social media and the internet. He has been consuming many online videos of various thinkers and what started as questioning his faith has progressed to open criticism of his parents and their faith in Christ. She worries about him and feels like a failure as a parent. For the last couple of months she has not felt close to the Lord and has felt a distinct lack of peace. She feels like she's a fraud and a horrible Christian and doesn't have any business leading a community group.

What are the problems in Angelica's thinking?

In what areas does she need to apply gospel truth or other biblical truth?

What truths might be helpful for Angelica to understand?