

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMER  
AT  
HILLSIDE

July 16, 2023

## Four Essentials for a Flourishing Family - Phil Comer & Brook Mosser

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you *think more deeply* about the sermon and *engage with others* through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and *allow God to work* in your life as you apply what you discover.

### ➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

**What is something you think of fondly from your childhood?**

### ➤ EXPLORATION

This week we welcomed Phil Comer and Brook Mosser from Intentional Parenting to share some of the essential practices parents can invest in to help their family flourish.

**Psalm 127:1-5 (From your bible, read aloud)**

**What stands out to you from these verses?**

*"We ask God to do Super-Natural things, It's God's job to do the super, but it is our job to do the natural"*  
~Mark Batterson

God wants to be involved in every aspect of our lives. We are created to rely on God for vision, strength to flourish in the life we are living.

## Four Essentials

- Your Work
- Your Forgiveness
- Your Attention
- Your Blessing

### Your Work

It may seem obvious, but it's important to understand that You can't pass on what you don't possess.

The following is a series of scriptures that help us understand God's design for your work. Take turns reading them out loud, pausing to consider how you might respond to the message of each verse.

***"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*** Philippians 2:12-13

***"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*** John 15:5

***"Imitate me, as I imitate Christ."*** 1 Corinthians 11:1

***"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*** Psalms 139:23-24

***"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves."*** 2 Corinthians 13:5

***“Let’s take a good look at the way we’re living and reorder our lives under God.” Lamentations 3:40***

***“But each one must carefully scrutinize his own work [examining his actions, attitudes, and behavior].” Galatians 6:4***

In light of these verses, consider the following questions:

#### **God what do you want me to know?**

- About my wounds?
- About how I'm moving through the world?
- About where you might have further healing for me to experience?
- Where am I reacting instead of responding to my kids, my spouse, my team?
- Where am I parenting out of fear and not trusting you to “build the house”?

**Take some time to talk through these questions together, sharing your thoughts on those that apply to you.**

#### **Your Forgiveness**

***Ephesians 4:31-32 (From your bible, read aloud)***

No one is perfect. We all make mistakes and when we do, we can ask for forgiveness. There are some key elements to this process to keep in mind when we apologize for our mistakes.

#### **The Proper Way to Apologize**

- Apologize for the specific offense
- Accept responsibility
- Ask God’s forgiveness
- Ask the person’s forgiveness
- Restore the relationship

**Do you ever find it hard to ask for forgiveness? If so, why do you think this is difficult?**

#### **Your Attention**

*“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity”*  
~Simone Weil

*“Hurry and love are incompatible. All my worst moments as a father, a husband, and a pastor, even as a human being, are when I’m in a hurry.”*

~David Augsburger

For those of you who are parents, here are three things your children are asking from you:

1. Do you see me?
2. Do you care that I’m here?
3. Am I enough for you or do you need me to be better in some way?

**Think back to your childhood, how well do these questions reflect your experience with your parents?**

#### **Your Blessing**

Your child will become who you tell them you see them becoming. Your words and the way you deliver them matters. One of the greatest gifts you can give your children, your spouse or important people in your life is a blessing.

#### **5 Important Components of a Blessing**

1. Appropriate touch
2. A spoken message
3. Attaching high value
4. Picturing a special future
5. Commitment to fulfill the Blessing

**Who in your life needs a blessing from you?**

#### **> TAKE AWAY**

#### **Four Essentials**

- **Your Work**
- **Your Forgiveness**
- **Your Attention**
- **Your Blessing**

We all want our family to flourish. We have the opportunity to allow God to help us grow as we lead our families.

One practical step you can take this week is to prepare and offer a blessing to someone in your life.

**Take some time to pray together, asking God to guide you as you seek to help your family flourish.**

**Commit to pray for each other this week and set a reminder so you don’t forget.**

