

Leader's Guide

Strengthening the Family

Sunday AM & Sunday PM Discussions

Dr. Marcus Warner

May 31, 2026

This week's discussion questions are based on Dr. Marcus Warner's teachings at Clinton Frame Church during the Sunday morning worship service on May 31 and again that evening. If you would like to watch the Sunday evening service, you can find it at www.youtube.com/@ClintonFrameChurch. It is highly recommended that you, the conversation leader, watch both sessions, but your group members don't need to do so in order to participate in or benefit from the group conversation.

As we focus on 'Strengthening the Family' this summer, we're reminded that healthy relationships don't happen by accident. Whether in our homes, friendships, workplaces, or church family, strong relationships are built when we learn to think truthfully, extend grace generously, and address conflict in healthy ways. Instead of allowing hurt, assumptions, resentment, or past wounds to shape our interactions, God invites us to see others through His eyes and respond with compassion, wisdom, and forgiveness. As we surrender our struggles to Him and allow Him to transform our hearts, He can bring healing, restore broken relationships, and strengthen the people and families He has placed in our lives.

Question 1

Think about a healthy relationship in your life. What qualities or habits have helped that relationship grow stronger over time?

Follow-Up Prompts

- What makes that relationship feel safe or life-giving?
- What role do trust, consistency, honesty, or forgiveness play?
- What have you learned from that relationship that could benefit other relationships in your life?

Additional Insight

Healthy relationships rarely happen by accident. They are often built through small, consistent practices over time: listening well, extending grace, showing appreciation, keeping commitments, and working through challenges together.

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Leader Transition

As we think about healthy relationships, it's also important to recognize how our perceptions and assumptions can shape the way we relate to others.

Question 2

Have you ever discovered that an assumption you made about someone was wrong? What happened, and how did it affect the way you viewed or treated that person?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why do you think we sometimes jump to conclusions about people?
- Have you ever wished someone had given you more grace or understanding?
- How can we become more curious and less judgmental when relationships are strained?

Additional Insight

Many conflicts grow because we assume we know another person's motives, intentions, or heart. Often we react to our interpretation of a situation rather than what is actually true.

Scripture

James 1:19 - Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Philippians 4:8 - Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable—think about such things.

Leader Tip

If discussion stalls, ask: *"How might relationships change if we spent more time asking questions than making assumptions?"*

Question 3

When conflict or tension arises in a relationship, what is your typical response? Do you tend to withdraw, become defensive, try to fix things immediately, avoid the issue, or something else? How does that response help or hinder the relationship?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Where do you think that response comes from?
- What did conflict look like in your family growing up?
- How does your response affect the people around you?
- What would a healthier response look like?

Additional Insight

Most people develop predictable patterns during conflict. Some withdraw. Some attack. Some try to fix everything immediately. Some avoid difficult conversations altogether. Growth begins when we become aware of our patterns and invite God to help us respond differently.

Scripture

Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up.

Leader Tip

Keep the conversation focused on self-awareness rather than blaming others. A helpful prompt is: *"What do you learn about yourself from your answer?"*

Question 4

Is there a relationship in your family, workplace, church, or community that feels strained right now? What might God be inviting you to do differently in that relationship, whether it's extending grace, seeking understanding, asking for forgiveness, offering forgiveness, or changing the way you think about the person?

Follow-Up Prompts

- Which of those possibilities is most difficult for you?
- What fears or obstacles make that step challenging?
- How might God want to work in your heart, regardless of how the other person responds?
- What would faithfulness look like in this situation?

Additional Insight

We cannot control another person's response, but we can control our own obedience. Sometimes God begins healing a relationship by first changing our attitude, perspective, or willingness to forgive.

Scripture

Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another... Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Leader Note

Some participants may be dealing with significant wounds. Avoid pushing for details. Focus on what God may be inviting them to do, not what the other person should do.

Question 5

What's one practical step you can take this week to help strengthen a relationship that matters to you? Be as specific as possible.

Follow-Up Prompts

- When will you do it?
- What might make it difficult?
- How can the group pray for you regarding this step?
- What would success look like this week?

Additional Insight

Meaningful change often starts with one simple act of obedience: making a phone call, writing a note, expressing appreciation, asking a question, praying for someone, seeking forgiveness, or extending forgiveness.

Scripture

Galatians 6:9 - Let us not become weary in doing good.

1 John 3:18 - Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Leader Challenge

Before closing, invite each person to share one specific action they hope to take this week. Encourage the group to follow up with one another next week if appropriate.