

Family Matters Part 3

Discipleship in the Home

Family Matters because your kids matter!

One thing I am confident in and that is you really, really, **really love your kids** and you want to help them.

Truth is: No one can **HELP** a child like a parent and no one can **HURT** a child **like a parent**.

Our opinions about **preparing our children for success** is sometimes different from one another.

- Some parents think it's their **education**.
- Some parents think the greatest lessons for life happen in **sports**. They think I would rather be at the ball park every weekend than anywhere else.
- Some parents think the key to success is **understanding money**. **The key to success is finance**.
- Some parents think is a **friendship relationship** that matters, I want them to enjoy me and confide in me.

These things matter, they matter a lot... but what MATTERS MOST? A relationship with God!

A relationship with God matters more than these skills.

Your family matters to God.

He not only wants to be your God, He wants to be the God of the Fathers and Mothers, the sons and daughters, and their grandchildren and even generations beyond that!

Exodus 3:15 ESV God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of **your fathers**, the God of **Abraham**, the God of **Isaac**, and the God of **Jacob**, has sent me to you.' **This is my name forever**, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all **generations**."

- He is a God of generations.
- His name forever... show us that He wants your children and grandchildren to **KNOW HIS FOREVER NAME**.

God has called us to provide the **next generation with an environment of faith** so they can **Know Him**.

And to create a family environment where **whatever seed God has planted in our children** will be cultivated, bloom, and produce fruit for their future.

Here's the key parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles... **we don't have forever to lead them into truth**.

You know when building something the **foundation is so important**.

But you better get ready because the **concrete is going to set up**.

How do we do that? Jesus gave us the answer. **It's called Discipleship**.

- Discipleship in the home is how we **raise up the next generation** and the **generation after that!**
- I have found that parents want to do this, but they don't know how!

At CL we want to partner with you.

Your Relationship with God Matters!

Background: Moses was on the Mountain 40 Days, God gave Him the 10 Commandments. While Moses is having an encounter with God, the people have given up on Moses and now are worshipping a golden calf (Idol). God says they have corrupted themselves around this idol.

Context: God says, these are a stiff-necked people. I am ready to destroy them and I will make a great nation out of you. Like a Spiritual Father Moses interceded on their behalf.

ADD Ex. 33:12, 13 NLT "... turn from your fierce anger. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them..."

- God relented
- Moses came down from the mountain and smashed the tablets.
- Judgment came on the nation via a plague.
- God re-established the covenant.

God visits Moses a second time on the mountain: **Exodus 34:6** NLT The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of **compassion** and **mercy**! I am **slow to anger** and filled with **unfailing love** and **faithfulness**. **7 I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations**. I **forgive iniquity**, rebellion, and sin. But I **do not excuse the guilty**. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; **the entire family is affected**— even children in the third and fourth generations."

Note: He forgives **iniquity** but does not excuse the guilty. Iniquity is not just our sin, **it is our tendencies toward particular sins**.

Have you ever seen iniquities manifesting in your children. Its horrifying!

Our children can't say, I was born this way, my dad was a drunk, its his fault. My mom was a cheater... I guess my affair is her fault?!

Don't miss the promise: God wants you to have multi-generational blessing in your family. It is His will!

He wants your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews to be blessed! **But He must have cooperation with you.**

Parents and Grandparents, let us break off the power of our iniquities... overcome our tendencies toward familial sins and let us claim our God's unfailing love, his compassion and mercy, his faithfulness for the next generation and the next in our family!

How can we gain his muti-generational blessing in our family?

Jesus calls this discipleship.

Discipleship Matters to God

Mt. 28:19-20 GNT Go, then, to **all peoples everywhere** and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **20** and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

This is the Great Commission... to reach the by making disciples!

Discipleship Matters to God! Discipleship is our greatest assignment!

Discipleship in our Family Matters to God! Making Disciples of our children must be our greatest assignment!

3 Keys to Making Disciples in Your Family

Model

- 1) When Jesus called his would-be disciples he said “**come follow me**”

A disciple is person who is devoted to following Christ. Obeying his teaching, adopting His values and living his life-style.

- 2) **The Ultimate Model is Christ.** Make sure they understand He is perfect and we are not!

- 3) As **parents we must understand the impact of the lifestyle we are modeling.**

- a) **Where parents miss it often:** what we want from our kids is **our ideals.** But **the way WE lives falls way short of those Ideals**

- i) This brings hypocrisy into the home and it undermines your discipleship.

It is very frustrating to children when their parents ARE NOT who they tell their kids to be.

- ii) Parents say, **don't fight with your siblings** but **then they are yelling and cussing at their spouse.**

- b) The importance of **just BEING a Jesus follower.**

The Right Message

- 1) **Make sure they understand the Gospel** (the good news). **Today via communion a perfect day to teaching them the gospel.**

- a) Celebrate it often!
- b) When we do water baptisms... stay! Clap! Shout it... talk about it.

- 2) **Speak the right words over them!** **YOUR WORDS** have impact, **Your WORDS Matter!**

- a) Think about it... **you were given the privilege and authority to NAME your children.**

- i) Jesus gave names to his disciples. **AFFIRMATION.** Renamed 3 of his closest disciples (Peter, James and John)

- (1) Simon (to be heard) became **Peter** (Rock Steady). you are unstable now, but you will become my Rock)
Which of your children are a Rock?!

- (2) James and John became called the **sons of thunder.** **You are strong, loud, leaders. God is going to use that for His Kingdom.**

Do you have any sons of thunder?

- (3) What about **Thomas?** The doubter?

The risen Jesus met Thomas where he was! In his doubt. Jesus revealed his scars he would believe.

Some children are **Rock Steady?** Some are loud and **full of Thunder.** Some are very **contemplative** and they need extra revelation.

They need the right message, the right words. Your words. See what God sees in them!

Godly Methods

disciple them into:

- 1) Prayer.
- 2) Giving.
- 3) Church.
 - a) I have heard some church hating Christians say Jesus never really emphasized local churches.
 - b) Jesus said I will build my church and it will conquer the gates of hell.
 - c) The risen Jesus spoke specifically and prophetically to the organized churches in Rev. 3. And John's revelation was sent and circulated among the local churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Sardis, Pergamum, Thyatira, Philadelphia, Laodicea.
 - i) If church is optional to you, don't be surprised when church becomes unnecessary for your kids.
- 4) Forgiveness – all things forgiveness
- 5) Leadership.

TRANSITION to Emily and Casey - By the age of 14 a child's worldview is completely formed. Urgency