

## Ministering to Your Family, Part 1

### Key Verses:

1 Timothy 5:8 NIV '84 - *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Proverbs 22:6 - *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Ephesians 6:1-3 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. v.2 Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), v.3 that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.*

Ephesians 6:4 - *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

### Objective:

Discipleship is something most people relegate to the church only. The call to make disciples reaches far beyond church gatherings or local congregations. Disciple making should reach to the nations but it should also be the priority in the family. In the next two lessons, we will discuss the priority of family discipleship and offer some practical tips to help guide you as you minister to your family.

Discipleship: Learning to live the life Jesus lived and with your life, teaching others to do the same. We should apply this working definition to our ministry life in the home.

The Priority: Living the Jesus-Life in the Home

Consider what you are passing on to your children and your children's children. Our children will receive some kind of heritage from us. Our attitude and actions determine what we pass down.

The life of the minister cannot be separated from the ministry. It is this way in the church and in the world as well as in the home.

You minister best to your family by modeling the characteristics of the disciple's life.

1) Make \_\_\_\_\_ God the priority of your life.

a) The greatest of all commandments is the greatest of all priorities.

*Matthew 22:35-38 - ... A lawyer, asked him a question to test him. v.36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" v.37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. v.38 This is the great and first commandment."*

b) Fulfilling the greatest commandment is the greatest model a parent can offer his (or her) family.

c) We can learn from how Jesus modeled His love for the Father as He trained the twelve:

i) \_\_\_\_\_: "... The Father is seeking... people to worship him."

*John 4:23-24 - But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. v.24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

True disciples are worshiping people. They love the house of the Lord; they love the lifting praises up to God.

ii) \_\_\_\_\_: "... Only what he sees the Father doing."

*John 5:19 - So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise."*

When you love someone... their wishes are always on your mind.

iii) \_\_\_\_\_: “Not my will but yours.”

Luke 22:41-42 - *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, v.42 saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”*

Model worship, mindfulness, and sacrifice. These are three great elements of love.

2) Make \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ personally a priority of your life.

1 Peter 2:2, 3 - *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— v.3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

a) Like newborn babes craving milk, we should crave the things that enable us to grow.

i) One characteristic all children share is that they eagerly want to grow up—to be like big brother or sister or like their parents. When we are born again, we become spiritual newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will long to grow.

ii) No one needs to teach newborn babes what food to take. They know instinctively that what they need has been provided for them in their mother's breast.

(1) A newly born again believer has a similar desire to crave the Word of God and to grow.

(2) How eagerly do you desire God's Word?

(3) How sad it is that some people never grow up?

b) If you love God and love your family, you must continue to grow.

i) Peter picked up the beautiful invitation in Psalm 34:8: “Taste and see that the Lord is good” and placed it in the past tense for these believers. They had already taken that first step in following God by accepting His salvation. At that

time, they had tasted, that means, they personally had experienced God's goodness and kindness.

- ii) Now that they had tasted God's goodness, they should continue to crave the spiritual milk of God's words.

Proverbs 20:7 - *The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!*

- 3) Make \_\_\_\_\_ your marriage a priority of your life.

Hebrews 13:4 NIV - *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

Note: For many people there seems to be a marital disconnect with the basic discipleship principles of God's Word. We should be at our best in our homes and marriages.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse deeply.

John 15:17 - *These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

- b) Demonstrate affection; be tenderhearted.

Ephesians 4:32 - *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- c) \_\_\_\_\_ your partner with they falter.

Ephesians 4:32 - *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- d) \_\_\_\_\_ with kindness and respect.

1 Corinthians 13:4, 5 - *... Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant v.5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful...*

e) Demonstrate patience.

1 Corinthians 13:4 - *Love is patient and kind...*

f) \_\_\_\_\_ openly for one another.

James 5:16 - *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

g) Serve one another in the marriage.

Galatians 5:13b - *...Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

h) \_\_\_\_\_ victories and spiritual breakthroughs before the family.

Philippians 4:4 - *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

i) Encourage one another in the marriage.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

j) Serve the \_\_\_\_\_ of the local congregation together.

1 Corinthians 12:14 - *For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*



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## REFLECT

1. In his lesson objective, Pastor Ron says, “Disciple-making should reach to the nations but it should also be the priority in the family.” Share your perspective on this statement.
2. What does discipleship practically look like in your own home?
3. Pastor taught that worship, mindfulness, and sacrifice are three keys in expressing love in the family. How are these manifesting in your family through you?
4. How hungry are you for the Word of God in your own life? Do you share what you are reading or learning with your family?
5. One of the greatest things you model for your children is to portray a genuine, visible love for your spouse. Why is this such a powerful example to your children?
6. How can this work in homes that only have a single parent or in blended families with step parents?
7. What about this lesson did you find most impacting?

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## ACT

Re-read the four key scriptures Pastor Ron opened this lesson with. Choose one that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about. What are you sensing is the next right thing for you to do in response within your own family?