

Ministering to Your Family, Part 2

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

Objective:

Jesus came to make disciples out of His followers. He chose the twelve to teach, train, and release into the world to make disciples in the same manner. In this lesson, we will talk in more detail about the ministry of making disciples in our very own households.

The method Jesus used to disciple the twelve is the way we should disciple our household. Jesus taught them, did ministry with them, and then He sent them.

- 1) Jesus _____ them.
 - a) Our focus here is not on what Jesus taught them but rather how Jesus taught.
 - b) Jesus was the master communicator who has provided us a great pattern to follow as we teach/train/disciple our own children and relatives.
 - c) Practical ways Jesus taught His disciples:
 - i) He _____ meaningful conversations.

- (1) Jesus initiated teaching moments by asking, “What do you think?”
 - (a) When He was teaching them about reaching the lost, Jesus asked, “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?” (Matthew 18:12).
 - (b) When Jesus was teaching them about paying taxes, He asked, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” (Matthew 17:25).
 - (c) When Jesus was teaching them about His deity Jesus asked, “...What about you? Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15 NIV).
 - (2) We should follow His example by initiating teaching conversations with leading questions.
 - (3) Engaging in meaningful conversations is much more effective than lecturing when teaching through a discipling relationship.
- ii) He taught them _____ through parables.
- (1) A parable is a story that is intended to illustrate an attitude or a principle.
 - (2) Jesus taught His disciples by telling stories they could relate to.

Examples: The Good Samaritan, the parable of the talents, the parable of the forgiven debtor
 - (3) Learn to teach metaphorically through relatable stories.
 - (a) Use your own true life stories.
 - (b) Be creative and construct your own stories.
 - (c) Use the parables of Jesus found in the gospels.

iii) He taught them through _____ moments.

(1) Examples:

- (a) When the fishermen were cleaning their nets, Jesus called them to be “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).
- (b) Jesus used the Sabbath day several times to teach His disciples about His authority and the love of God (Mark 2; 3).
- (c) Jesus used the Passover meal to teach His disciples about His atoning sacrifice.

(2) Real life opportunities with your children:

- (a) Young Children: Use meal time, bed time, and travel.
- (b) Childhood & Adolescents: Use school, church attendance, and household chores to teach them responsibility, respect, and spirituality.
- (c) Teens & Young Adults: Use disappointment, accomplishments, and the complexities of relationships to teach them about godly love, forgiveness, faithfulness, and the value of having a good conscience.

2) Jesus did _____ them.

- a) Jesus chose the twelve and trained them to be the foundational ministers of the gospel and His Kingdom. He not only taught them spiritually and intellectually, He included them in ministry with Him.

Examples:

- i) Jesus taught them compassion by ministering to the crowds and/or ministering to one blind man. He included them when ministering to children and reaching out to the worldly woman at the well.
- ii) Jesus taught them faith by including them in the miraculous feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6).

- iii) Jesus taught them prayer, asking them to pray with Him in the garden (Matthew 26). During His most difficult time personally, Jesus was still teaching and training His disciples.

Note: This is a great lesson for us. When we are struggling to overcome a life issue (sickness, discouragement, disappointments), we should include those we are discipling as much as possible.

- b) One of the best ways to disciple your children, is to seek our ministry opportunities that involve the entire family.

Examples: Work days at the church, feeding the hungry in the community, visiting a sick person in the hospital, cooking a meal for a person who needs some help, sponsoring an orphan, taking them on a mission's adventure

- 3) Jesus _____ them out.

Psalm 127:3-5 - *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. v.4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. v.5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.*

Like arrows in a quiver, our children were created to be released into battle.

- a) The goal of all discipleship is reproduction and release.
 - i) First, the Lord's desire was to reproduce His character and His ministry skills in them.

John 14:12 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.*

Secondly, the Lord desired to send them out into their calling to make disciples of all nations.

- b) Jesus gave the twelve two opportunities to minister under His supervision before they were ultimately released on their own (Mark 6; Luke 10).
- c) The final victory was realized by Jesus when:
 - i) He won His own battle over the cross and grave.
 - ii) He used His authority to send His followers to the nations as disciple-making disciples!

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v.20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Like Christ, we have our own battles to win and our own disciples to release.

- d) The success of a disciple-making parent will be seen by the fruit his/her children produce as they are released into their own destiny as true disciples of Jesus who are committed to making disciples in their own world.

REFLECT

1. Pastor pointed out that Jesus taught His disciples metaphorically through parables. How could you do the same if you were with your family on a picnic in a beautiful outdoor setting?
2. Pastor encouraged us to tell our own stories. Can you think of a story that would teach a spiritual principle to your family?
3. What “real life” situations could you leverage to capitalize on “teachable moments” with family members?
4. Jesus modeled ministry in front of His disciples and then invited them into ministry. What are you currently doing in ministry that you could invite your family to join you in (or at least observe you)?
5. Do you pray with and for your family out loud? How do you think this practice could enhance your relationship?
6. Pastor writes, “When we are struggling to overcome a life issue (sickness, discouragement, disappointments), we should include those we are discipling as much as possible.” How can you include your family in your own journey through difficult issues?
7. Pastor taught that “the goal of all discipleship is reproduction and release.” How are you preparing your family (especially children) for this?
8. How can you partner as a family to become a disciple-making family?

ACT

One of the practical ways Jesus taught His followers to reproduce disciples was to initiate meaningful conversations. Write down 3-5 questions you could use to turn an ordinary conversation into a spiritual conversation.