



# Discussion Guide

FAMILY- everyone needs one

“Family Matters” Part2

Jeff Wall 4-18 2010

Since we are made in God’s image, we are made for relationships. God invented the idea of the family. Everybody has a deep desire to be part of a family. The importance of the family is reinforced when we see that God uses family terms in the Bible to define who we are as a Church. Even though our earthly families are not perfect, God chooses to use families to minister to the world. God works *in* your family and *through* your family. In this study we will look at our responsibilities to our own family and to those without families.

**OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE—SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.**

## 1. A FAMILY IS A SHELTER FROM STORMS.

What does the Lord provide for his children, according to Proverbs 14:26?

- Why does the Lord provide security for us?
- What are some ways we’ve experienced that security in our family?

**Fellowship**—We all experience storms in our lives. They come in the form of change, failure, or rejection. How can a family give us refuge from these storms?

## 2. A FAMILY IS A LEARNING CENTER FOR LIFE.

What does Ephesians 6:4 tell you to do and not to do with your children?

- Give examples of how you can exasperate your children.
- Where would you find the training and instruction of the Lord?
- Why would it be important to move children from dependence on parents towards dependence on God?

### What God Wants Us to Learn from Family:

#### ➤ Relationships

According to Luke 2:52, what does this verse tell us about Jesus’ growth here on earth in terms of relationships? Describe what it means to grow in wisdom and how that develops and deepens our relationships with

#### ➤ Values

Read Deuteronomy 6:6–7. What does this verse instruct us do to with our children and when?

- How would following this instruction shape your children’s values?
- Why would a person’s passing on of their spiritual values to a child be the most important thing they could do?
- Give examples how a parent can unintentionally teach their children values by their daily interactions with money, time, recreation, work habits, etc.

#### ➤ Character

What does Proverbs 4:4–5 say we are to do?

- What are some ways we can get wisdom and understanding?

#### ➤ To Know and Love God

According to Isaiah 38:19, what does this verse say about a family's heritage?

- Describe ways a family can pass down their love of God through each generation.
- How can a family begin to instill in their children the knowledge and love of God?

What does knowledge begin with, according to Proverbs 1:7?

- How is respect the foundation of knowing the Lord?

**Discipleship**—God wants us to learn many things from family. It's through relationships that we learn to give and receive love. Our values help us learn what matters most and set an example of priorities that our children can learn and grow from. What can you adjust in your life this week to demonstrate more of God's values to your children?

### 3. A FAMILY IS A LAUNCH PAD FOR MINISTRY.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:15. How did Stephanas and his family spend their lives?

- Why do you think the Scripture highlights Stephanas and his family serving together?

Who will serve the Lord, according to Joshua 24:15?

- How can serving be a conscious or unconscious decision?
- What are the advantages of serving the Lord as a family?

**Ministry**—God doesn't want us to serve alone. **He gives us a family when we join his spiritual family.**

Who do you think is impacted when a family serves together? Share some ways families could serve together.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS WITHOUT A FAMILY

### 1. GOD IS PASSIONATELY CONCERNED FOR ORPHANS.

Read Proverbs 23:10–11. Who does it say stands up for orphans? What names do other translations use to describe God in these verses?

- Why do you think God makes such a strong stand for orphans?

What does James 1:27 say is pure and lasting religion?

- How does caring for orphans show our love for God?

How does God react to those who deprive foreigners, orphans, or widows of justice, according to Deuteronomy 27:19?

- Why does God have such strong consequences for neglect of these people?

According to Deuteronomy 14:29, God will bless us if we do what?

- What difference does it make if the care is given by the church or not?

**Mission**—God has designed families so people can experience his extraordinary care and love. Orphans need people around them to model that love and care. We can't reach *all* the orphans, but each of us can touch the life of one orphan.

**What are some practical ways to make a difference in an orphan's life?**

- 
- 

**There are 'spiritual orphans' (those who are not being disciplined) all around us.**

**Who do you know that might be waiting for you to help them into family relationships at Friends so that they can be cared for and mature?**

- 
-