

SESSION 6: DISCIPLINE = DISCIPLESHIP

Welcome and Review Last Week's Homework & LIFE Starters: 20 minutes
Session #6 Teaching: Discipline = Discipleship: 15 minutes

When we think of the word "discipline," often what comes to mind are rules, Captain Von Trapp or a military general. But when it comes to our children, our goal should be on discipling them, not teaching them to respond mindlessly to a list of do's and don'ts. Our goal should be to help them examine and recognize their behaviors and emotions, see how sin separates them from God and others, and show them how to reconcile and grow in those relationships.

Discipling our children takes time, preparation and connection. It's much quicker to point out a fault, hand down a consequence or punishment, and move on. But parenting isn't about easy answers or quick resolutions. Before we can discipline our child, we have to evaluate our heart, and what the concern is really about. Are you addressing a moral, Scriptural issue? Or is your response based in some kind of fear or control struggle on your part?

Discipling our children also requires us to be absorbing God's Word ourselves, and have the knowledge or resources to address whatever the issue is. Heart growth requires not only telling our children not to be selfish, but to be giving; not to live in fear, but to trust in the Lord. While we as parents guide, direct and talk with our children about right and wrong, choices and behavior, we also have to remember that God does the ultimate work in their hearts, and that is why it's so important that we constantly point them to God's standards and love for us. Every time we have to address an issue, what we really have is an opportunity to help our children grow. We should be looking at the end goal and see these opportunities as a privilege, not something to be dreaded or avoided.

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

- What is the difference between just disciplining your children and discipling them?
- What does that look like in your mind?
- How can you make sure you are ready to disciple when the opportunity presents itself?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

- Do your LIFE Starter Journaling and make time to continue the discussion from your small group breakout time.

Resource: Watch the IDEAL video

SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 1

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Journal about "making disciples" of your family!

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 2

Read Ephesians 4:11-19

Journal about your family's gifting and how you can lift them up in those giftings.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 3

Read Matthew 16:21-28

Journal about taking your cross in order to model discipleship to your family.

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F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 4

Read John 15:1-17

Journal about God as the vine.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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