

February 22 & 23, 2020 | The Perfect Family – week 1 Group Discussion Questions

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service's message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

This series will focus specifically on biblical principles for parenting. However, discussion questions will be developed for those without children. Please use the discussion questions highlighted in ORANGE for your group if your group members do not have children.

INTRODUCTION

Getting the leadership of our family right is so crucial because it is the only unique leadership role we will ever hold. No one except us will ever be our child's mother or father. Thankfully this leadership role isn't as much about competency as it is engagement. How will you approach this leadership role in your life - passively or passionately?

Building trust is an essential aspect of influencing others, including our family. To influence others effectively, you must be perceived as trustworthy, competent, and helpful. These attributes provide credibility. When you have credibility, others listen, and families are transformed. Focusing your life on living for the good of others benefits everyone, including yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tell the group about your family. What wins and losses are you experiencing as a parent?

Many of us are familiar with setting goals in the workplace. Would you consider yourself a goal setter at home?

One guiding principle a goal-oriented parent may put in place is to develop children who are self-sustaining and able to bless others. Share with the group the guiding principle you've put in place for raising your children. If you don't have one, what keeps you from clarifying it?

Why is focus necessary for successful parenting?

1. What is your idea of the perfect family, and is it realistic? Why or why not?

One guiding principle a goal-oriented person may put in place is to become self-sustaining and able to bless others. Share with the group the guiding principle you have put in place for yourself, or for raising your future children. If you don't have one, what keeps you from clarifying it?

Why is focus necessary for our development?

2. No matter the guiding principle for our parenting, there are lessons we must teach and be an example of to reach the end goal. Below are four we can use to create focus in our parenting.

Trust = Freedom. How are you intentionally growing your trust in your children? What obstacles are you currently facing?

Wisdom. Read [Proverbs 3:13-15](#). What is wisdom? How is wisdom developed?

Unselfishness. Read [Philippians 2:4](#). How are you modeling "not looking to your own interests but to the interest of others" to your children?

Guard their hearts. Read [Proverbs 4:23](#). What does it mean to "guard your heart?" In your opinion, what practical steps can we take to guard the hearts of our children?

2. Below are four ideas we can put into practice that will increase our ability to influence our family.

Trust = Freedom. Read [Proverbs 25:19](#). How are you intentionally building trust in your key relationships? How have you recently deteriorated trust, and what needs to happen for you to rebuild it?

Wisdom. Read [Proverbs 3:13-15](#). What is wisdom? How is wisdom developed?

Unselfishness. Read [Philippians 2:4](#). The hardest people to get along with are those who take more than they give. In what ways do you see yourself taking more than you give? How can we develop a giving heart?

Guard your heart. Read [Proverbs 4:23](#). What does it mean to "guard your heart?" In your opinion, what are the best practical steps we can take to guard our hearts?

3. Of the four ideas shared, which do you need to be a better example of, and what can you do to strengthen the example you set for your children?

What are some essential parenting ideas we haven't discussed that could be taken into consideration when developing our guiding principle?

3. Of the four ideas shared, which do you need to be a better example of to strengthen your influence?

What ideas have we not discussed that should be taken into consideration when developing our guiding principle?

ACTION STEP

4. Take a moment to develop your guiding principle. How will you keep this in front of you?

What small, consistent deposits will you put in place that will allow you to focus on passionately pursuing the guiding principle for your children?

4. Take a moment to develop your guiding principle. How will you keep this idea in front of you?

What small, consistent deposits will you begin to make to passionately pursue the guiding principle you're putting in place for yourself or your future children?

RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS

1. **Develop your guiding principle.** Some examples are:

- a. To develop children who are self-sustaining and able to bless others.
 - b. To raise children who want to be with their parents and one another when they don't have to.
 - c. To raise functional adults who take care of themselves and positively contribute to society.
2. **Serve together.** Become a part of Emmanuel's Impact Team by attending [Impact 101](#) or contacting Emmanuel's Impact Team Director, Leah Torrison. ltorrison@eclife.org
 3. **Memorize Scripture.** Verse of the week is [Deuteronomy 11:18-19](#). Commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.
 4. **Book.** Recommended reading is [For Parents Only](#) by Shaunti Feldhahn or [When Work and Family Collide](#) by Andy Stanley.
 5. **Podcast.** Recommended podcast is [Leadership and Parenting: Part 1](#) and [Leadership and Parenting: Part 2](#) by Andy & Sandra Stanley.

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

To determine how your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at bschafer@eclife.org.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____