

March 1, 2020 | The Perfect Family – week 2
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 crucial because it is the only unique leadership role we will ever hold. No one else 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?

No matter your age or the role you currently play, you can positively influence others, including the people in your family. Prioritizing others, remaining humble, being kind, and becoming a stronger disciple of Jesus are all ways to build influence. When we strive to excel in areas like these, families are transformed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What guiding principle have you landed on for raising your children?

What has been the best advice from *The Perfect Family* series, or the best advice you've heard from another source?

1. Regardless of who you are, you can add to a healthy family dynamic. What are some positive qualities you bring to your family? What areas could you work on?

2. Below are five points of advice we can use to create focus in our parenting.

Prioritize your marriage. Would you say your home is a "marriage first" home or a "children first" home? Why? What practical steps could you take to prioritize your marriage?

Humility. Read [James 4:6](#). What pieces of you are still being transformed into the image of Christ? Is there anything you need to apologize for but haven't? How do we grow in the humility necessary to willfully say, "I'm sorry?"

Kindness. Read [Ephesians 4:31-32](#). We're all tempted to treat people according to what we think they deserve. How have you rationalized being unkind? In what ways can we cultivate a culture of kindness in our family?

Discipline. Read [Proverbs 19:18](#). Of the four stages (discipline, training, coaching, and friendship), which stage(s) are you currently in, and what do you find most challenging about this stage. What does it take for a couple to be on the same page? Why is following through on discipline so crucial to the development of our children?

Discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Faith is more caught than taught. How are you currently modeling discipleship, and what needs to be implemented?

2. Below are five ideas we can put into practice that will increase our influence in our family.

Prioritize your marriage. Describe a couple you know who has gotten this right. What practices did they have in place that helped them prioritize one another over other demands? If you're a student, how could you do a better job of helping your parents prioritize their marriage?

Humility. Read [James 4:6](#). What pieces of you are still being transformed into the image of Christ? Is there anything you need to apologize for but haven't? How do we grow in the humility necessary to willfully say, "I'm sorry?"

Kindness. Read [Ephesians 4:31-32](#). We're all tempted to treat people according to what we think they deserve. How have you rationalized being unkind? In what ways can we cultivate a culture of kindness in our family?

Discipline. Read [Proverbs 19:18](#). We often associate the term disciple with negative thoughts. Why is that? In what ways is discipline positive?

Discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What discipleship practices do you currently have in place, and what needs to be implemented?

3. Of the five ideas shared, which do you feel is the highest priority? How would prioritizing this idea alter the future of your family?

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ACTION STEP

4. What is your guiding principle, and how will you continue to keep it in front of you? Which of the nine ideas shared in *The Perfect Family* series will you focus on? What is your plan to practice these ideas?

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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 Recommendations.

- a. [*Shepherding a Child's Heart*](#) by Tedd Tripp
- b. [*The New Dare to Discipline*](#) by James Dobson
- c. [*For Parents Only*](#) by Shaunti Feldhahn
- d. [*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:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____