

Connection Equipping Academy exists to equip followers of Jesus to do God's work in the World

Connection Equipping Academy

Growing In Knowing God

Topic // *Family*

OVERVIEW

As we seek to grow in knowing God, we have explored His attributes as an essential foundation. We want to expound on the practical ways this knowledge of God strengthens us in daily life. For our next sessions, we will see the distinct roles of discipleship and evangelism, Scripture, prayer, the local church, and family all deepen our knowledge of God and breathe life into the purposes God has planned for our lives and His kingdom.

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps no other influence shapes our perception of God like our family experience. No matter our family dynamic, how we grew up impacts how we perceive God, others, and even can help or hinder how we read Scripture at first glance. The good news is that God has the words of life for every part of our lives. He works powerfully by His Spirit to show us Who He is and to transform us and our families to impact the world.

Reminders

- Identity is closely related to our biological heritage.
- Even the abused or abandoned love and desire relationships with their destructive family members.
- The Bible's picture of God as Father sometimes can confuse those who come from broken, unhappy, or chaotic families because we interpret everything by our tangible experiences.
- Marriage and family require work, investment, and healthy priorities. Priorities are the primary indicator of the health and growth of our families.
- Serving and sacrificing are the keys to oneness and joy in marriage.
- Parents are the primary influencer with the responsibility to disciple their children and the church is a significant but *secondary* support.

Use the following page to take note of anything that stands out to you to meditate and pray about.

In the following pages, choose one application at a time to pray about and explore with God as you seek to deepen your love and relationship with Him and with others. Work your way through the list over time and don't try to "accomplish" the list at once.

PERSONAL APPLICATION for marriage

Application 1 - How do you and your spouse disciple each other? In pursuing this, how can you allow vulnerability and your spouse's perspective for your personal growth and the health of your relationship?

Application 2 - What can you do this week to spend time focusing and becoming a student of your spouse to learn what helps them and makes them feel loved?

Application 3 - You're always communicating something by your behavior, words, or silence. Watch for an opportunity to be slow to speak and quick to listen and later reflect on how it went.

Application 4 - Listen for why they are saying or reacting as they do and respect each other's background that shaped the way you cope and communicate.

Application 5 - As you respect and listen to your differences, create time for communication and family confession. Model humility to your spouse and children. Seek your Father and ask for Him to teach you how vulnerability and authenticity can bless your family and spur on one another's growth.

Application 6 - How can you relate to each other from grace instead of trying to create the marriage environment that's comfortable for you alone?

PERSONAL APPLICATION for family

Application 1 - If someone asked your children what communication is like between you and your spouse, what would they say?

Application 2 - With your spouse or children, discuss the primary way or person they're disciplined by in the home. Pose the questions, "What does discipleship mean? How does it happen in our family?" Is the primary source of discipleship for your children coming from you, or is it coming from another individual?

What steps could you take to make yourself the primary source of discipleship for your child/children?

Application 3 - What do you struggle with most when it comes to family discipleship?

Application 4 - What is the goal of parenting? Discuss and pray with your spouse on ways you can change or improve the environment in your home to foster the goal of raising children to be adults who love and follow Jesus.

Application 5 - In interacting with your children or in opportunities for discipline, watch for your motives in your response. Ask yourself, “Am I aiming to help them become followers of Jesus or am I trying to implement behavior that will just make my day better?”

Application 6 - How can you demonstrate grace and discipline in a fitting way your child can grasp?