

Family

WITH CONNIE BERNARD

Session 1: Family and Faith

Ephesians 6:1-4
Joshua 24:15

Our families are gifts from God. The most important aspect of raising our family is that they are saved. We model to our children how to grow in our relationship with God every single moment.

1. Think about your family. How is your family life now different from your family life as a child?
2. Do you have a time when you gather as a family to talk about your faith?
3. How could you strengthen your family's commitment to live for God?

It is important that we saturate our families in His Word and in His Spirit every day. We can create that environment and encourage everyone in our home to grow in our faith.

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Session 2: Family and Sweethearts

Matthew 19:4-6

Building a strong relationship with our spouse is a key to a strong family. Keys to doing so are to look for ways to show our love to our spouse, support one another, and be willing to grow together.

1. How do you show your spouse your love?
2. In what ways do you show your spouse you support him or her?
3. Why do you think it's important to be able to change with your spouse?

Life isn't certain. People change, and it's not realistic to think we won't ever face that in marriage. When we know God is in control, we can learn to change with our spouse and cope with whatever we may have to face.

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Session 3: Family and Finances

I Timothy 6:6-12

Maybe you've heard it said that you need to manage your money so it doesn't manage you. This concept of stewardship is especially important when it comes to our families so we don't add unnecessary stress. We can master some basic principles to develop healthy finances, which in turn blesses us in building a healthy family.

1. What do you think the statement means: money is a good servant but a terrible master?
2. Finances can become a problem area for relationships. Why do you think that is?
3. Sometimes people unfamiliar with the Bible are surprised by how Christians follow Scripture's plan for giving of our finances to the Kingdom of God. How do you convey the way it works?

So many relationships in our society are marked by conflict over money. When we're faithful, wise, and good stewards, God blesses us and supplies our needs. In addition to those blessings of provision, we also can enjoy the additional blessing of peace in our family by establishing a sound financial plan.

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Session 4: Family and Children

Psalm 127:3
Proverbs 22:6

Unconditional love that extends grace even in moments of frustration and anger can do more than a lifetime of words. Our children need our love, protection, and training.

1. We will naturally protect our children physically from any obvious danger. How do we also protect our children from things beyond the physical realm?
2. How do you give your children opportunities to learn and grow, whether it be in practical life skills or in their faith?
3. What is something special you can do this week to show you children your love?

It has been said that parenting is not for the faint of heart. But God equips us to in turn equip our children. As we love them, protect them, and train them, God directs and blesses the process to help them grow and become who He wants them to be.

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Session 5: Family and Discipline

Proverbs 29:17

Discipline can be an uncomfortable topic, but it's critical to fulfil our biblical responsibility of training our children. As we approach this topic, we can be encouraged that God will help us step up to address this need in our families.

1. How do you balance love and discipline in your home?
2. Why is it important to discipline fairly and consistently?
3. All of us can probably think of both parenting wins and fails in the area of disciplining our children. How do you encourage yourself when you feel you didn't get it right?

Everything we do shapes our children into the people they will become. Discipline is part of that process. As we develop fair and consistent boundaries and discipline our children with love, we help our children understand the value of their own personal sense of discipline, which will help them become healthy disciples.

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Session 6: Family and Home

Proverbs 3:33

Home is a place families and friends are drawn to, just like the sayings you've often heard about it. We determine the kind of home we will have, and in so doing, we can set an environment that can nurture our family.

1. How would you describe the atmosphere of your home? Explain.
2. What can you do to make your home more peaceful?
3. Why do you thinking speaking the Word of God in your home affects the environment?

Peaceful homes don't happen automatically, but when we are intentional about Jesus permeating every inch of our home, it creates peace and love. This week, let's commit to speaking peace and the Word of God in our homes and in our neighborhoods.

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