

# Family Discipleship

Week 1: Developing Convictions

ACE Class | March 29

## Course Purpose

- ▶ This course will be a joint-effort among ACE (adults), Youth, and Children's Ministry to provide hands-on practical training for families on how to conduct family discipleship.
- ▶ Adults and Youth will take up the topic separately in their respective Sunday school classes.
- ▶ Parents and children will engage in family discipleship during the week.

## Survey, Question 1

### *Personal Reflection*

- ▶ What is **your role** in discipling your children?
  - ▶ I believe I am the primary one responsible for discipling my kids (with spouse, if married).
  - ▶ My role is primarily to ensure they're involved in church.
  - ▶ My role is to encourage them to pursue their own faith.
  - ▶ Other?

## Survey, Question 2

### *Group Discussion*

- ▶ What words describe **your feelings** around family discipleship?
  - ▶ Joy
  - ▶ Encouraged
  - ▶ Weight/responsibility
  - ▶ Dread
  - ▶ Discouragement
  - ▶ Frustration
  - ▶ Others?

## Survey, Question 3

### *Group Discussion*

- ▶ What has been **your experience** with family devotions?
  - ▶ Frequency (of time to read Bible & pray together)
  - ▶ Reception (engagement of children/attitudes)
  - ▶ Fruit (positive, mixed, or negative results)

## Survey, Question 4

### *Group Discussion*

- ▶ **What do you need** from this course to help you disciple your children?

## The Plan

- ▶ First Two Weeks
  - ▶ 3/29 (Today): Orientation & **Developing Convictions**
  - ▶ 4/5: **Discussing Practices** (nuts-and-bolts)
- ▶ After Easter (4/19 through May, skipping Cong. Mtg.)
  - ▶ **“Psalm 119: Supreme Word, Supreme Joy”**
  - ▶ At-home curriculum for families to use for discipleship relevant to the whole family (all age ranges).
  - ▶ ACE & Youth classes will discuss the previous week’s lesson and orient families for the upcoming week.
  - ▶ Final 1-2 weeks: **equipping to continue** on your own.

## Developing Convictions

## Discipling You to Disciple Your Kids

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and **teaching them to obey**\* everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:18-20*

\* observe (ESV, NASB, NRSV)

## Learning to “Obey”

- ▶ **Learn it** (head knowledge; intellect)
  - ▶ “What To’s”—knowledge, understanding: goals
- ▶ **Love it** (heart knowledge; personal ownership; conviction)
  - ▶ “Why To’s”—values, presuppositions: motivation
- ▶ **Live it** (hand knowledge; volition/will)
  - ▶ “How To’s”—techniques, methods: means

## Learning to Love It—“Why To”

► *Consideration from Baptism*

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and **promise**, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will **endeavor** to set before (him) a godly example, that you will **pray** with and for (him), that you will **teach** (him) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will **strive**, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring (him) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

*Parents Baptismal Vow #3*

## Learning to Love It—“Why To”

► *Consideration from Shema*

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

<sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> **Impress them on your children. Talk about them** when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

<sup>8</sup> **Tie them** as symbols on your hands and **bind them** on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> **Write them** on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

## Learning to Love It—“Why To”

► *Consideration from the Apostle Paul*

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

*2 Timothy 1:5*

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*2 Timothy 3:14-17*

## Take-Away

## Group Reflection

- ▶ What does **your calling** to be a disciple who learns to obey Jesus (Matt 28) have to do with **your role** in discipling your own children?

## Group Reflection

- ▶ What is the relationship between **your role** and **God's role** in discipling your children?
  - ▶ Do you... and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace... and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment... (Baptismal Vow #3)
  - ▶ Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will attempt to live in a manner consistent with being a follower of Christ? (Membership Vow #3)
  - ▶ ... from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation ... (2 Tim 3:15)

## Personal Reflection

- ▶ **What is God saying to you** about your role in disciplining your children?
- ▶ How does the **gospel** offer you peace for any shortcomings and motivation to move forward?
- ▶ Consider writing out (journaling) your own **personal conviction statement** about disciplining your kids.