



Faith Family Discipleship

A Discipleship-Driven Faith Family

Acts 18:24-28

Main Idea: God grows His church when discipleship is relational, cross-generational and grounded in the Word.

The church is the family of God. God has given our Faith Family a very plain mission we state each week at the end of our worship service. That mission is to go make disciples! This Great Commission is not a suggestion but a command, and it is one every believer should take seriously. The questions most asked concerning this command are: "How do we do it?" and "Where do we start?" The answers to these questions are found in another command Jesus gave his disciples in Acts 1:8. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." How do we do it? Through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us! Where do we start? In our Jerusalem, right here where God has planted us! If we are to be the Faith Family God intends us to be, we must be a Discipleship-Driven Faith Family! Let's look at an example of a Discipleship-Driven Faith Family from Acts 18:24-28

In the Faith Family, spiritual parents have a responsibility to the next generations. (Acts 18:24-25)

- a. Spiritual Parents should identify potential in the next generations. (24)**
- b. Spiritual Parents should address the needs of the next generations. (25)**

Apollos was an impressive young man, his native Alexandria was an intellectual center renowned for its library. Years earlier the Alexandrian community produced a Greek translation of the Old Testament. The city was also home to famous philosophical scholars like Philo and later religious scholars like Clement, Athanasius, and Origen. Alexandria played a crucial role in the early development of Christianity, becoming a leading center for Christian theology and philosophy. Coming from Alexandria, it is obvious that Apollos was a very educated and gifted man. He was eloquent in speech, he had been biblically trained, and he was passionate about what he was teaching. But there is a danger in being deficient in your understanding, which we see is the case for Apollos. This is why spiritual parents in the Faith Family are so important. Every new generation needs to, not only be educated in the things of the Lord, but to also be mentored by those who can make sure their understanding is complete. This is the role Aquila and Priscilla played in the life of Apollos. In the discipleship-driven faith family, we don't just see where people are, we see who they can become. We value the passion and energy of the younger generation, while helping them embrace the maturity and insight of the older generation.

1. Have you ever found yourself being like Apollos, passionate yet deficient in your understanding about something related to the Lord? How did God grow you in that situation?
2. What is the danger of being passionate yet deficient in your understanding concerning the Lord?



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In the Faith Family, we grow through relationships. (Acts 18:26)

- a. Spiritual Parents correct and invest personally**
- b. Spiritual Parents disciple and mentor the next generations**

We know that we need spiritual parents within our Faith Family to help grow and disciple our future generations. Aquila and Priscilla are such a beautiful example of how we are to carry this out. First we see that they are intentional, after hearing Apollos teach in the synagogue, they take him aside personally to give him good instruction. Second we see that this instruction is not done through a program but through relationships. Integrity based relationships are an essential part of true discipleship. And lastly the basis for their instruction is the Word of God. God has called us to mentor or to be mentored, teach or to be taught, to walk alongside other believers for the purpose of being a discipleship-driven Faith Family. Spiritual parenting and grandparenting should happen naturally when generations connect in God's Word!

1. Who saw your potential as a young Christian who helped shape you in that process? Who do you see potential in that you could help shape?
2. Can you think of a time when someone noticed a deficiency in your understanding? How did they help you to overcome that deficiency?
3. Read Titus 2:2-5. What are God's instructions for spiritual parents in the Faith Family?

In the Faith Family, disciples are strengthened and sent through discipleship. (Acts 18:27-28)

- a. Disciples become disciple-makers**
- b. The Faith Family is to launch disciple-makers to serve elsewhere**

God's plan has always been for his church, the Faith Family, to make disciples who become disciple-makers who will go and multiply their faith. The Faith Family is a launching pad for the mission of God. Too often people get saved and there is no plan in place to mature them. They have a relationship with Jesus, they truly love him, but growth is slow because they don't have intentional people to model for them how to live, how to study God's Word, how to pray. God's design is for the learner to become a teacher, for the mentored to become a multiplier. Discipleship is not about keeping people, it's about launching them. The impact of cross-generational discipleship extends beyond our walls. When we invest deeply in one another - young and old - we multiply mature believers who bless our Faith Family and the wider church.

1. Who is one person or family you can help disciple - or be discipled by?
2. Are you opening God's Word with others regularly in a relational setting? If not, why not?
3. Are we helping the next generation know Jesus more accurately?

INVITATION - If you would like to live out what Christ has called you to do, sign up today for our Faith Family Discipleship on Wednesday nights. It is an opportunity for us to be a Discipleship-Driven Faith Family where we grow together in Christ relationally in a Cross-Generational Context.