



Discussion Guide

It Starts At Home was written to explain why home is the primary context of our spiritual formation - for better or worse. It also provides practical insights for married couples, parents, grandparents and leaders who wish to become more intentional. Use this discussion guide to process key themes of the book together.

Part One: It Starts At Home

- On page 17 Kurt Bruner says the home should embody the relational harmony of heaven rather than the isolation and conflict of hell. He describes Maria's struggle with the words of scripture due to pictures from her own family. Do you agree that our experience at home influences our perception of truth? Why or why not?
- On pages 22-24 Bruner uses a flower pot to illustrate why faith grows best in the rich soil of a God-honoring home. Describe how a strong marriage and loving home make it easier for someone to understand the gospel. Share how a weak home can poison faith's roots and make it difficult to grow.
- Page 28 defines "spiritual formation" as the process of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Have you ever thought of your marriage as an important tool in God's effort to make you more like Christ? Have you viewed parenting as a process that shapes mom and dad as much as it shapes the children? Do you think this "formation" happens in the difficult moments, the joyful times or both?
- On pages 34-37 Bruner identifies several things that start at home including beliefs, identity, character and purpose. He also describes the home as the proving ground for effective leaders. Why, in your view, did God list success at home as a criteria for church leadership?

Part Two: Intentional Couples

- On page 43 Steve Stroope says that every marriage is intended to be a picture of *the* marriage between God and His people. In Ephesians 5:31-33 the Apostle Paul calls this a “profound mystery” which suggests we can’t fully grasp the meaning. In what ways do you think a strong marriage helps children understand God and the gospel?
- On page 44 Stroope says “Nowhere in the Bible are we commanded to feel good about people. But we are commanded to love others, particularly our spouses.” What are some practical ways we can love a spouse during moments we don’t feel loving? When might acting on our feelings undermine a thriving, healthy marriage?
- Pages 57-58 provide a self-assessment to determine whether you have been intentional over the past 120 days about building a God-honoring marriage. How did you score?
- Pages 59-62 list practical ideas for becoming intentional. What ideas might work for you? What other ideas have worked for your family?

Part Three: Intentional Parents

- On page 71 Kurt Bruner says the greatest threat to passing faith to our children is negligence. We become so busy during the child-rearing years that we fail to plan the spiritual formation of our children. What are some things in your home that squeeze out this priority?
- On pages 75 and 82 Bruner describes a multi-generational cycle that can work for or against our children. Did you receive a strong or weak spiritual legacy? In what ways can you become intentional about giving your children better than you might have received?
- On page 89 Bruner says that children tend to embrace the beliefs of their parents if the relationship is healthy. Have you observed this dynamic in your home or elsewhere?
- Page 105 says children need the corrective lenses of truth in order to navigate the deceptive roads of life. What do you consider the most powerful deceptions of our generation?
- On pages 118-119 Bruner shares the practical implications of children made in God’s image who possess a fallen nature. How might an understanding of these realities influence our approach to parenting in general and to faith-training in particular?
- Pages 130-131 provide a self-assessment tool to evaluate your level of parental intentionality over the past 120 days. How did you score?
- Pages 134-143 list practical ideas for becoming intentional. What ideas might work for you? What other ideas have worked for your family?

Part Four: Intentional Grandparents

- On page 149 Steve Stroope says grandparents are called to inspire and nurture the faith of the next generation as life's greatest privilege and priority. What percentage of grandparents in this generation do you think take that call seriously?
- On pages 158 grandparents are asked to rate their own level of intentionality during the past 120 days. How did you score?
- Pages 160-161 list several practical ideas for becoming intentional. What ideas would work for you? What other ideas have worked for your family?

Part Five: Intentional Leaders

- After reading the trend summaries on pages 165-174 share your thoughts on why so many in the younger generation seem to reject Christian faith. Do you think the problem is at church, at home or both?
- Which of the following best describes the level of intentionality among leaders at your church?
 - **Category One:** We are just beginning to craft a vision for families in order to get these issues on our radar screen.
 - **Category Two:** We have begun changing existing programs or creating new programs that will make spiritual formation at home a greater emphasis.
 - **Category Three:** We have launched a senior leadership team initiative with the goal of developing an integrated strategy for driving faith into the home.
- On pages 184-186 the authors describe casting a family intentionality vision for the church which includes a short theology of home. How would you grade your level of intentionality as a leader in this arena? What simple steps can you take in the next 120 days?

For ideas on creating a culture of intentional families visit

www.DriveFaithHome.com