

Fighting for Your Family

LifeGroup Discussion Questions Week 1

Ownership: Where do I need to take responsibility?

Awareness: What is shaping me or working against me?

Action: What am I going to do about it?

AWARENESS

Introduction

1. What would you tell your younger self (or your kids) to do to prepare for a successful marriage?

Chapter 1: Basic Training

1. The “world” embodies all the cultural influences experienced by the believer. What cultural influences are most shaping your thinking about family right now?
2. The three fronts of spiritual warfare are: the battle against the flesh, the battle with the world, and the battle with Satan. Where do you tend to focus your attention when you consider spiritual warfare?
3. In Ephesians 2:1-3, Paul emphasizes the temptations to which humanity is prone because of our sinful nature. In Ephesians 6:12, Paul points to the power of spiritual authorities and cosmic powers. Discuss how these two passages are not contradictory.
4. Satan often promises “happiness” or “fulfillment” to mask destruction. Where do you see the pursuit of “happiness” pulling people away from what matters most?
5. Having Kingdom priorities requires sacrifice (e.g., missing events so be at worship or tithing instead of luxuries). Besides worship and tithing, what other Kingdom priorities may cause you/your family to make sacrifices? Which of these “sacrifices” feels most intimidating to you, and why?

OWNERSHIP

Introduction

1. Discuss your family background and any premarital counseling that you brought into your marriage. Reflecting back, do you feel that you were well prepared for marriage?
2. Describe a hard season in your marriage. What helped you get through it? Knowing what you know now, would you handle a similar situation differently?

Chapter 1: Basic Training

1. The greatest enemy in the battle against spiritual warfare is the person who stares back in the mirror. Why is it easier to blame your spouse, your children, or “the devil” for mistakes or disagreements rather than your flesh?
2. Think of a recent “minor” stressor (messy house, running late, long day). What happened—and how did you respond in that moment?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Discuss how you can create escape strategies to use when faced with temptation in your personal life so that you can have power over your flesh. How will you handle that same stressor the next time it appears in your life?

ACTION

Chapter 1: Basic Training

1. We tend to “love, trust, and obey” our idols. If someone looked at your calendar or bank statement, what would they say you value most?
2. What is one concrete step your family can take this week to prioritize God’s Word over worldly influences or idols?
3. Satan often attacks the family by attacking the church through false doctrines, doubts, and suspicions. How can you guard your family against being taken in by Satan’s schemes to cause division and manipulate understanding of his word?
4. You can expect Satan to fight back when you go to war with your flesh and resist temptations from the world. Spiritual warfare is a reality, whether you choose to engage or not. Read Romans 13:14 and Colossians 3:5-11. Discuss strategies that you can implement in one area of life to “make no provision for the flesh.”

Weekly Challenge

Decide on your change today. Remember: *You cannot control the spiritual climate of your home until you surrender the climate of your own heart.* Identify one recurring irritation in your home that usually leads to tension or conflict.

1. What is the irritation?
2. What will you do differently next time?
3. What truth from Scripture will you use instead?

Based on this week’s discussion, each person or couple answers the following:

1. What’s one thing you’re going to do this week?
2. When will you do it?

Anchor Points

James 1:19-21: 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Romans 12:1-2: 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Peter 5:8: Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.