



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Sermon Study

Week of April 22, 2018

Sermon: Family Series I

Ingredients for the Parent

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **How Much Do You Use?** Have everyone sit in a circle. Pass around a roll of toilet paper and invite them to “take as much as you need to get the job done.” After they take as much as they “need,” explain that for each piece of toilet paper they ripped off, they must say one thing about themselves.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN “Ingredients for the Parent”

MAL 4:6 “He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

- No family is perfect, but some are healthy. The following are some biblical ingredients—values for healthy parenting. Cook these any way you like!

PROV 24:3 “Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom and understanding.”

- Wisdom or understanding never come easy or quickly. It takes work.

READ MATT 7:24-27

1. Keep Jesus at the center of your home.

Q1. What’s the center of your home? What do you spend the most time and attention on?

- When something else becomes the center, the family will coast, but you always coast downhill.

READ ACTS 17:23-27, ACTS 4:13

Q2. Do people recognize you as someone who has been with Jesus, or all about something else?

2 COR 5:14 “Christ’s love has the first and the last word in everything we do.”

- Oftentimes, families struggle because kids are at the center of the family.

2. Don’t make excuses for your kids or for yourself.

JAMES 5:16 “Admit your faults to one other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”

- If parents don't admit it...the kids will deny it too

1 JOHN 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”

- Confess means no excuses.

3. Be led by the Spirit of God.

- Teach your kids that we “pray” before “yea”

› Many times my kids wanted to do something, but if I had a check in my heart about it, I don't think I ever allowed them to go. I could not live with the fact that the Holy Spirit said, “No,” and I said, “Yes.” This practice saved my kids.

ROM 8:14 “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

ISA 30:21 “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”

4. Quality time.

HEB 10:25 “Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- Plan time to be involved in church.
- Plan a weekly family night, and make it unmoveable.
- Have daily family contact.
- Plan something to look forward to every month, and take a vacation every year.

5. Be aware of the highs and lows.

- Share your highs and lows every day. Pray for the low, and thank the Lord for the high.
- Pay attention to and talk about what's on your heat map.

6. Demonstrate love to your spouse.

MARK 3:25 “If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”

- The best way to love my kids is to love their momL hugging, kissing, complimenting, flirting, couch time.

- Couch time shows the kids that when you first come home, you sit with your wife before you play with the kids.

7. Tell the truth

GEN 4:9 “Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

- “Lie” means the intent to deceive, including omitting key information, covering up, or selective amnesia. If you tell the truth today, you won’t live a lie tomorrow.

- Satan is the father of lies

JOHN 8:44 “...(Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

- If you tell your kids that Friday night is family night, do it! If it’s vacation this summer, do it! If you tell them you will discipline them when you get home, do it.

PROVERBS 22:1 “A good name is more desirable than great riches.”

8. Show affection.

ROM 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

- It’s very healthy—therapeutic even—to get a hug or kiss or squeeze.
- Children ran to Jesus for hugs, and He responded by holding them. I wonder what He said to them. Good policy: Never leave the house without hugging the family.

9. Be an encourager

HEB 3:13 “But encourage each other every day while it is “today.” Help each other so none of you will become hardened because sin has tricked you.

You’ve probably heard the expression, “Sticks and stones will break my bones. But words will never hurt me?”

PROVERBS 12:18 “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the wise tongue brings healing.”

- **Words of Life:** “I love you, you’re important to me, thank you so much, how can I pray for you, you look really nice today, I like your new hair style, great job, this family wouldn’t be the same without you, I’m proud to be your brother/sister. You are irreplaceable, I’m

glad you're my mom, you're a cool brother. There is something about you that I like, your life brings a smile to me."

- **Words of Death:** "I hate you, loser, you disgust me, I wish you had never been born, you make me sick, I want a divorce, nobody cares about you, I'll never speak to you again."

EPH 4:29-30 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

10. Have fun in your home.

- The home should be a place to play, so light it up! Dance, have pillow fights, laugh easy, laugh often, laugh loud, laugh at yourself.

2 COR 3:17 "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

PRO 17:22 "A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones."

ECCL 9:9 "Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of your life."

- President George H. W. Bush said his greatest accomplishment was "Knowing that my children enjoy coming home to see me."
- Since I want my kids to enjoy their walk with God, I must enjoy my relationship with the Lord.
- Pastor Larry gave wise advice years ago: "Pray every day until joy hits your soul."

NEH 8:10 "Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

- Be 100% in the moment, not somewhere else, because once the moment passes, it's gone.

"No Time to Play"

My precious boy with the golden hair
Came up one day beside my chair
And fell upon his bended knee
And said, "Oh, Mommy, please play with me!"
I said, "Not now, go on and play;
I've got so much to do today."
He smiled through tears in eyes so blue
When I said, "We'll play when I get through."
But the chores lasted all through the day
And I never did find time to play.
When supper was over and dishes done,
I was much too tired for my little son.
I tucked him in and kissed his cheek

And watched my angel fall asleep.
As I tossed and turned upon my bed,
Those words kept ringing in my head,
“Not now, son, go on and play,
I’ve got so much to do today.”
I fell asleep and in a minute’s span,
My little boy is a full-grown man.
No toys are there to clutter the floor;
No dirty fingerprints on the door;
No snacks to fix; no tears to dry;
The rooms just echo my lonely sigh.
And now I’ve got the time to play;
But my precious boy is gone away.
I awoke myself with a pitiful scream
And realized it was just a dream
For across the room in his little bed,
Lay my curly-haired boy, the sleepy-head
My work will wait ‘till another day
For now I must find some time to play.

PRAYER OVER FAMILIES

I pray that your family will keep Jesus in the center of it all
I pray you will have wisdom and clear direction from the Lord
I pray your family will have the joy of the Lord
I pray for you all to be close. That you will love each other
I pray that your words will not be condemning but of life
I pray your kids will grow up in the admonition of god
I pray for any broken family to be healed in Jesus name
I pray the Lord will turn the heart of parent back to their kids. And
the heart of the kids back to their parents
And I pray that the heart of this family will seek after you, all the days of
their lives. In Jesus’ name!

- Q3.** Of the 10 above ingredients, which one is the Holy Spirit prompting you to focus on the most in this season?
- Q4.** If you have children, what is a 1% adjustment you can make today to refocus the direction you are taking as a parent this year? (If you don’t have kids, think about influencing the next generation in your sphere—whether through mentoring, teaching, coaching, or being a Godly neighbor).
- Q5.** What past parenting mistakes do you need to forgive yourself for?
- Q6.** What childhood memories make you feel upset or angry toward your own parents? **Leaders:** if it seems appropriate, ask them if they would like to meet with you sometime during the following week to

talk through anything that may arise when you ask this question. If that occurs, ask them a few questions:

- What (if anything) is God showing you is your part in this situation or memory?
- Ask the Holy Spirit if you need to forgive anyone, and choose forgiveness: “In Jesus’ Name, I choose to forgive [name] for [why].
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what lie you may be believing because of this memory. Ask the Holy Spirit, “What is the truth?” or “What do You have to say about this?”

PRAY TOGETHER THROUGH ANY NEED THAT HAS SURFACED DURING THE DISCUSSION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS