



## Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of April 25, 2021

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

### Connect

- Are you a rule-follower or rule-breaker? How has this created a challenging or amusing situation for you?
- When has someone stood up for you or fought for you? What does this person mean to you now?

### Engage the Bible - Read [Matthew 22:34-40](#) together.

#### The Context

##### Parenting Ain't No Game

Every child is going to end up somewhere in life - yet not every child ends up somewhere on purpose. The difference is vision & values in Jesus. The difference - parents & a community that **Fights for the Heart of each child, relative, & community member.**

This past Sunday Dave shared that a day is coming in the future that you may dream or dread. Kids will move out, leave, & become adults. While it's easy to say I want my kids to graduate, go to college, get a good job, maybe marry someone, buy a home & have cute little grandkids. That's not a vision worth fighting for. Why? That won't stop the depression, the anxiety, the hopelessness, the addictions, the divorces, & it won't ultimately be enough. You have to define a vision that brings God at the center of your home. You have to define a vision that aligns with the heart of Jesus as we read in Matthew 22:34-40. A vision that transforms, feeds, grows, loves, & guides the heart. Fight for the heart of those you love. How? **Communicate who you value before you communicate what you value.** Stop trying to fight over all the rules, & start fighting for the relationship. Make rules that protect the heart & create an environment where the heart is the #1 priority. ([Read Proverbs 4:23](#) together.)

At Northland, we have a vision, to Love God, to Love people & to make Jesus the center of our homes. So we are going to point them to Jesus, we are going to pray for them, praise them, & we are going to invest into the things we value most - a heart for Jesus. Second...**Be In Their Corner For Decisions.** Help them learn to navigate life. To grow, mature, & develop. Be their biggest support, coach, cheerleader, & faith-builder. How? - **Stop telling them & start showing them.** Live out your faith. Be the most trustworthy person your family knows. Let them see you love Jesus & others. - **Stop making decisions for them & start making**

**decision makers.** - **Stop raising kids & start raising adults.** You are raising the next generation of parents, leaders, politicians, coaches, teachers, & pastors. It's easy to get swept up in believing you are raising kids who depend on you. But you want them to depend on God. You are helping them see the big picture God has for them. You are going to help pass along something that is greater than an inheritance. You are passing along a legacy of faith.

#### Discuss & Apply

1. What was the approach to discipline & rules like in your home growing up? (Ex: loving, harsh, consistent, unknown, etc.)
2. How might this have impacted your view of God? Of how you think God sees you? Your view of grace & the Gospel? Your view of parenting & family? Your view of others?
3. What comes to mind when you hear "Fight for the Heart" of those you love? How have you seen this come to life before? How might this change our culture & world if there were more 'fighting for each other' happening today?
4. What's the difference like to be in relationship with someone that pursues being right versus someone that pursues cultivating the relationship in love, respect, & care?
5. Read [Matthew 22:37 & Deuteronomy 6:5](#). Why do you think the Lord emphasizes love over things like obedience & rules? What could that teach us as parents? As sons & daughters? As influencers?
6. Thinking about Fighting for the Heart; is there something you think God wants to modify in your family's life? Family values? Priorities? How can we help? How can we pray?

**End your group time in prayer.**