



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of May 16, 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

- If you could travel to anyplace in the world (all funds & logistics figured out & provided), where would you go and what would you do? OR: What plans do you have for summer as a family?

Engage the Bible - Read [Luke 9:23-24](#) and [Matthew 6:31-34](#).

The Context

Parenting Ain't No Game - Make it Personal

Parenting isn't a game, it's a wonderful, amazing, and yet significantly important adventure and calling. There are times for fun, parties, games, and giggles - families must have this a normal part of their life. Yet, there is also a time for parents to realize the high privilege and calling that we have been given with our kids. To guide our kids to love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. To love Jesus with every aspect of their being while also loving others as they do themselves. For this to happen, it has to become personal. It has to become a strategically pursued passion of our hearts to push, pull, and propel our families towards Christlikeness. How? It starts with us as parents.

Pastor Dave shared Sunday that **"If you want it to be in them, it must be in you."** If we want our kids to display and live out their faith passionately, then they need to see us passionately live out our faith. If we want them to follow Jesus, then we have to lead them passionately to love and follow Jesus. We do this by making it personal. As Dave shared, there many ways to do this, but the most significant and "game-changing" of life-changing ways we can do this is by:

- **Make it personal with your Time**
 - Does God get the first part of my day?
 - Does God get the first day of the week?
- **Make it personal with your Money** (See [Matthew 6:21-24](#))
 - Does God come first with my finances?
- **Make it personal with your Marriage**
 - Do I give my spouse the God given love and respect they deserve?
- **Make it personal with your Family**
- **Make it personal with Your Community**

It's every area of our life. This is having an attitude that reflects Jesus. A "thy will be done" right here, right now in my life mindset. Following Jesus is about what we are doing to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness in our faith. That means you take this personally from the inside out. It becomes something we take personally. This is what we signed up for.

Your faith is the most important thing about you. And your kids. It's what matters most. Faith isn't just something we believe - it's a life-altering experience that transforms all of our lives. It means that we depend more on God than we do ourselves, our whits, or our circumstances. It's placing our faith in God, following Jesus, and trusting Him while not worrying about the rest. If you want it to be in your kids, it must be seen in you.

Discuss & Apply

1. What is most surprising or significant in today's scripture reading?
Note: If you're not a parent yet, answer while thinking about your family growing up. What did happen?
2. What would your kids say you believe is most important to invest your time and money in? What do you want them to say? Is there a gap? What practical steps can you implement this week to begin changing that over time?
3. Out of the different "Make It Personal" ideas Dave shared which one was most helpful? Which one are you most excited about? Which one is more difficult to leverage? Who has ideas or stories of how this has gone well or made a difference for your family?
4. How do you regularly invest in your marriage? In your family? Community?
5. When your kids are adults, what do you want them to pass on to their families about the importance of faith? Time with God? Marriage? Family? Community? What priorities, values, mindsets, or outlooks on money do you want them to pass down?
6. What can we pray for today?

End your group time in prayer.