



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of May 2, 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

- What is something exciting you have done - or want to do?
- Would you rather: write the next great novel or write the next great song? Why?

Engage the Bible - Read **Proverbs 13:20 and Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Deuteronomy 5:1-3.**

The Context

Parenting Ain't No Game - Widen the Circle

Jonathon shared Sunday that in the American culture, we tend to over personalize faith. We talk a lot about a personal relationship with Jesus. Yet we sometimes miss or forget the fact that **the whole Bible is built around the concept of community.** In Deuteronomy 5 & 6, Moses is talking to parents, of course, but he's also teaching siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, great grandparents, cousins; the whole extended family; as well as the community as a whole. The church is not just a random assembly of individuals who love and serve God. We are a called and strategically placed community of faith. The Bible calls us the Body of Christ - linked and united together intentionally by Jesus.

If we deny that or fight against that, then we discover the consequences. **When we isolate, we disintegrate.** If this is true for us, it is certainly true for our children. It is vital that we create opportunities and environments for our families (especially our kids) to encounter Jesus, in relationships with other adults & believers. How?

1. Pursue STRATEGIC Relationships for your son or daughter. Connect your family with others that believe what you believe. Find additional adults that say the same things you say. That's why small group leaders are so important in our children's ministry and student ministry environments.

2. BE a Strategic Relationship for someone else's son or daughter. Be intentional about the opportunities you have. If you're in a small group - get to know the kids of the people in your group. Prioritizing your faith by being in the group might be rubbing off more than you know. Be another voice for someone else's kids. **Two combined influences make a greater impact, than just two influences.**

Discuss & Apply

1. What are your thoughts on the idea that: When we isolate, we disintegrate? Have you experienced or seen this occur? How?
2. When you were a kid was there another adult (not a parent) that invested in you in a positive way? How has that impacted your life and relationships?
3. Who is investing into you as an adult? As a parent? How has this been helpful?
4. What comes to mind when you consider enlisting other adults to partner with you in speaking into your child's life (or your life)? What is encouraging or exciting about this idea? Do you have any fears or hesitancy?
5. How are you connected to a wider circle of influence as a family?
6. How are your kids connected to other adults that help you prioritize faith in the life of your child? How are you partnering with Northland Kids and Student ministries?
7. What are some of the dreams you have for your family (or future family)? What influences or partnerships could help you see that dream come true?
8. How can we help each other be strategic relationships for our children or families?
9. If your group has not gathered as families, schedule a fun family event in the next few weeks.
10. How can we pray for you?

End your group time in prayer.