



**Northland Christian Church
Group Discussion Guide
For the Week of May 9, 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 had one wish (& couldn't wish for more wishes) what would you wish for and why?

Engage the Bible - Read [Deuteronomy 6:7-9](#) & [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#).

The Context

Parenting Ain't No Game - Create a Rhythm

Parenting isn't a game, but there are still strategies for assisting in getting ahead and increasing the likelihood of success and joy. There is a way to win at parenting and Moses shares that in our passage today. What are some keys? What's the "secret sauce"? Create a Jesus-centered rhythm of life as a family.

Pastor Dave shared Sunday that every family has a rhythm. You have a very particular way you go about life from the moment you get up until you go to bed. Rhythm is simply how we arrange our time, patterns, and what we prioritize. Everyone gets 24hrs a day but not everyone uses those hours the same way. From work, home, hobbies, side-hustles, and events, each family has a rhythm. There will always be the unknowns of life - emergencies, jury duty, and family items, but for the most part, your life does have a pattern and rhythm - and the truth is: **Your rhythm communicates what you value.**

Where does God fit into your rhythm? Where does Jesus fit into your family's flow of life? How do you create good family rhythms? Follow the steps laid out by Moses. First, we have to leverage the fact that: **Things that are repeated are remembered.** And: **Things that are remembered are repeated.** How do you leverage this as a parent? Bring Jesus into the everyday moments of life every day. Communicate and share with your kids and family.

- **Morning Time:** Be an Encouraging Coach that Instills Purpose.
- **Drive Time:** Be a Friend that helps Interpret Life and Stay Engaged & Up to Date.
- **Meal Time:** Be a Teacher and Establish Values and Truths for Life.
- **Bed Time:** Be a Counselor and Build Intimacy, faith, trust, and confidence in God and family.

Your rhythm and what you repeat communicates what you value most.

We make time for what matters most.

Discuss & Apply

1. What phrases that your parents said do you find yourself saying without thinking? If you're a parent, are there things that your kids repeat that they have learned from you?
2. What difference does encouragement make in your day? Would you describe yourself as an encourager? What could we all do to become "aspiring encouragers"?
3. What is one of the most powerful quotes you've ever heard that was helpful for you?
4. When your kids are adults, what do you want them to remember about growing up? What values, principles, or conversations do you want them to remember and repeat?
5. Out of the 4 Different times to leverage as parents: which one is your favorite time to utilize - or the one your most excited about utilizing? Which one is more difficult to leverage? Who has ideas or stories of how this has gone well in your family?
6. What would your kids say you value as a family? What would they say you repeat the most (either with words or actions)? - or - growing up what did your family value - what was repeated, remembered, and passed on?

7. If your group has not gathered as families, schedule a fun family event in the next few weeks.

8. What can we pray for today?

Create A Rhythm			
TIMES	COMMUNICATION	ROLE	GOAL
MORNING TIME	ENCOURAGING WORDS	COACH	INSTILL PURPOSE
DRIVE TIME	INFORMAL DIALOGUE	FRIEND	INTERPRET LIFE
MEAL TIME	FORMAL DISCUSSION	TEACHER	ESTABLISH VALUES
BED TIME	INTIMATE CONVERSATION	COUNSELOR	BUILD INTIMACY

Adapted from Parenting Beyond Your Capacity By Reggie Joiner & Carey Nieuwhof

End your group time in prayer.

Here is a previous resource we created that might be useful for families.

[Click Here to Download a Copy.](#)

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CAPTURE THESE TIMES FOR JESUS

Make Jesus the Center of Your Home

MORNING TIME



Start the day in the Bible and with good music. Share encouraging words, letters, and social media posts with your spouse and kids. Leverage your morning for Jesus and your day will be leveraged for joy, endurance, and blessing.

MEAL TIME



When you sit at home and share a meal together, talk about the sermon from Sunday. Discuss the lessons your teenagers or kids are learning. A 5-minute conversation about faith can change the trajectory of a life forever.

DRIVE TIME



Leverage your windshield time for spiritual growth. On average your family will spend more time in the car each month than in church each year. Talk about Jesus. Listen to Northland Spotify playlists. Ask questions about life, faith, and love.

BED TIME



Transform time that can sometimes be stressful into one of the most impactful times. Pray with and over your kids. Read bible stories & devotionals together. Go to bed thanking Jesus & talking about Jesus. Center bedtime on Jesus.

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-9

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

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