

KINGDOM VALUES THAT BUILD STRONG FAMILIES

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

WEEK 1 (December 8): THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG FAMILY

- Read Joshua 24:14-15 and discuss the modern-day gods that we serve today. Discuss ways that serving the Lord intentionally is counter-cultural today.
- The first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me”—simply stated is: Put God First. We used the acronym F.I.R.S.T to help describe what putting God first literally looks like in daily living. Discuss which of the below five is the easiest for you to apply, and why?
 1. Finances
 2. Interests
 3. Relationships
 4. Schedule
 5. Trouble
- Which of the above five is hard for you to apply, and why?
- How do you make time for God in your day?
- Going Deeper: Romans 6:14 states, and this applies to all who truly follow Jesus, “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”
 - Since followers of Jesus are not under the law but under grace, does this mean we don’t have to live in obedience to the Ten Commandments?
 - Read Matthew 5:17-20 in several different translations. What does Jesus’ fulfillment of the Law mean for our daily lives?

WEEK 2 (December 15): ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES

- Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9. As we are engaging in this series called, “Kingdom Values That Build Strong Families,” what are some ways you can commit wholeheartedly to God in your life, and with your family?
 - What idols in your life may be holding you back from wholeheartedly serving Jesus and making Him King of your life?
- What are some ways you can create more God time in your family?
 - Are you an example, to your family, of someone who puts God as a priority?
 - What day to day things take up more of your time with God?
- What plans are you willing to put into place to break idolatry in your life and in your family life?
 - Who are you going to ask to hold you accountable to this for the next week?
 - What does God time look like with your family as a whole?

WEEK 3 (December 29): TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY

- What ways have you misused the name of the Lord in your life?
 - Do you have areas in your life that are hard to exemplify God in?
- When you're at work/school, how do you exemplify God and make His name great?
 - What ways can you glorify God's name at home, with your family?
 - What does a family look like that glorify God's name together?
- Who in your life needs to see God's name glorified in your life? Is it family, friends, coworkers?
 - During this next week, what actions can you take to make that happen?
 - Who will keep you accountable to that?

WEEK 4 (January 12): GOD'S WORD TO WORKAHOLICS

- How often in your week can you say you are physically rested and spiritually refreshed?
- If being physically rested and spiritually refreshed are good things, what stands in the way of you experiencing them more often?
- What will you do this coming Sabbath to help you be physically rested?
- What will you do this coming Sabbath to help you be spiritually refreshed and focused?

WEEK 5 (January 19): HONORING YOUR PARENTS

- The first "table" of the Law teaches us how to love and honor God. The second "table" teaches us how to love and honor people. Before He teaches us how to love people, He tells us that we are to honor those in authority. Why do you think God tells us to honor authorities before He tells us how to treat others?
- The word for honor can mean "weighty/burdensome". Talk about a time when submission to authority was burdensome to you.
 - What did you learn from submitting or not submitting to authority?
- The word for honor also means "to give glory."
 - In what ways do you glorify (or not) your parents?
 - Others in authority?
 - What is the result in your life of not giving them the honor that is due them?
 - How does it affect them?
- In what ways will you accept the burden of submission to authority this week?
- In what ways will you give glory to those who are in authority over you this week?

WEEK 6 (January 26): HOW TO AFFAIR-PROOF YOUR MARRIAGE

- If you feel comfortable, talk about a time or a way that your life has been impacted by adultery/betrayal or trust issues with your spouse.
- Talk about a time when you tried to “white knuckle” love for another person.
 - Did it work?
 - For how long?
- Do you think you could tell if someone was “white knuckling” love for you?
- Is your picture of marriage more about happiness or holiness?
- Talk about a time when another person completed/complimented you.
- Talk about a time when you experienced grace from someone else.
 - How did it make you feel?
- In what way can you more fully love your spouse or someone close to you this week?

WEEK 7 (February 2): LET THERE BE LIFE

- If “sticks and stones can hurt my bones but words will never hurt me,” why would God prohibit verbal abuse?
 - In what ways have you been abused by words?
 - In what ways do you abuse others with your words?
- In what ways has your life or the lives of those around you been impacted by suicide?
 - How have you responded?
- In what ways has your life or the lives of those around you been impacted by abortion?
 - How have you responded?
- What will you do this week to obey the command, “You shall not murder?”

WEEK 8 (February 9): PROSPERING WITH INTEGRITY

- Talk about a time when you were impacted by stealing.
 - Were you involved in stealing?
 - Did someone steal from you?
 - What did you feel when the theft was discovered?
- How did you feel during the sermon when “stealing” was expanded to include deceit, fraud and non-payment of loans?
 - Did that strike closer to home?
- When have you struggled to be honest?
 - What was the result of your dishonesty?
 - How have you experienced the dishonesty of others?
- In what ways can you make restitution for stealing in the past?
- How can you be more honest with God in your giving?
- What needs to change in your life to remove the temptation to steal?

WEEK 9 (February 16): TELLING THE TRUTH

- Today's topic is about honesty. Before you start your discussion, take some time in prayer asking God to give you the courage to be honest with each other.
- Talk with each other about times when dishonesty has impacted your life. If someone else lied about you, what was the result in your life? If you lied about or to them, what was the result in their life? What feelings linger for you about that experience?
- Which type of lying are you most likely to engage in? (Cruel, Cowardly, Conceited, Calculated or Convenient) In what ways does your lying benefit you?
- "We need to be honest about our sin, about our fallen world, and give our pride to God." In what ways does your pride lead you to lie? What would it be like for you to set aside that pride?
- In what ways will you commit to growing in honesty this week? With God? With Others? With Yourself?
- Read John 16:7-15, then spend some time in prayer with each other asking the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth.

WEEK 10 (February 23): LEARNING TO BE CONTENT

- God tells us not to covet what others have. Why?
 - What impact does it have on your life when you covet what someone else has?
 - What impact does it have on your relationship with your neighbors?
 - Your relationship with God?
- What do you most often covet?
 - Why that instead of something else?
- How does coveting most often affect you?
 - Fatigue? Debt? Worry? Conflict? Dissatisfaction?
- Have you learned the secret of contentment in an area of your life?
 - How did you learn it? Did you learn it by choice?
- If you were going to teach someone how to be content, how would you go about it?
- What will you do this week to learn contentment?