

*\*This is a discussion guide based upon Pastor Rick's sermons. The questions provided below are for Home Group Leaders to utilize in facilitating discussion within their group. Home Group Leaders are encouraged to take these questions, re-arrange them, omit as required, add as required and change as required in order to best create a close Christian family that feels safe and secure to be open about their lives and their Christian walk. Please tailor as necessary based upon your leadership style and group dynamics.*

*Additionally, if there are any questions, comments, critiques, inputs, etc... Please email Michael Griffin at [airforce\\_griffin@yahoo.com](mailto:airforce_griffin@yahoo.com).*

### **ICE BREAKER**

Where is your ideal family vacation?

### **SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 4:1-26 (Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel)  
Genesis 9: 18-29 (Noah and his sons)  
Genesis 12:4-9, 16:1-15, 20:1-18, 21:1-21 (Abraham)  
Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-46 (Isaac and Rebekah)  
Genesis 29:1-35, 30:1-24 (Jacob, Rachel and Leah)  
Genesis 34:1-30 (Simeon and Levi)  
Genesis 35:16-29 (Reuben and Bilhah)  
Genesis 38:1-30 (Judah and Tamar)  
Genesis 37:12-36 (Joseph and his brothers)  
Psalm 51:5  
Ephesians 2:2-3  
Genesis 8:2  
Matthew 24:37  
Genesis 6:11-13

### **QUESTIONS**

- How many families have kids, what are their ages?
- How many have read books about raising kids? What were they? Did they help?
- What is the story of Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel?
- What is the story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar and their children?
- What is the story of Noah and his sons?
- What is the story of Isaac and Rebekah?
- What is the story of Jacob, Leah and Rachel?
- What is the story of Jacob, Simeon, Levi and Dinah? Where did Jacob fail Dinah? What are your thoughts of Simeon and Levi's actions? How did Jacob react to Simeon and Levi?
- What is the story of Joseph and his brothers?

- Do you agree with Pastor Rick's statement, "Jacob got his brokenness from his parents who got it from their parents, and so forth. And so on. This is a basic theological truth..."? Through the utter brokenness of Jacob and his family line, God eventually brought forth Jesus. Despite the brokenness of your family, whatever that may be, do you believe that God can use you for His kingdom? How?
- Do you believe that all of us are born with a sinful nature? Do you see that in your children? What does this look like?
- What was the world like in the days of Noah?
- Do you believe that American culture is pulling away from God? What are the implications for you and your children? Does that shape the way you parent? If so, how?
- How is modern American culture shaping your children? Do you believe that media (music, TV, movies, internet, YouTube, Facebook, etc...) is influencing your children's lives? What are you doing about it? Are you relying on church to teach your children or are you taking deliberate actions in the life of your family to teach your children about the Christian life?
- Do you pray for your children? How often? What does it look like? Do you pray for your children's future spouses? Do you think this is important? There was once a story about two Christian brothers who used to have a HGTV show, one of their most powerful memories was getting up in the morning and finding their father on his knees praying for them (almost every morning). Why is this important?
- How much of your conversation with your spouse, with friends and with family concerns your children?
- Pastor Rick talked about children and sports. How many of y'all have children in sports? What do you think of the sports culture and your kids? How does this affect your family? Are you so busy with activities that you never have family time? Do you spend time with your entire family sitting together, perhaps over a meal, talking about what happened that day, what is happening in the lives of your children? How often do you do this, how do you balance this with all the activities in your life?
- What is the danger in basing your identity in your children? How does that affect marriage? There are families out there that are so involved in their children's lives that they do not date, do not invest into their marriage. What does that teach children? Why is it so important to invest time in marriage over what activities your children are involved in?
- Life is filled with teachable moments. How do you react in these moments is huge. Do you give your children responsibilities and allow them to make mistakes or do you just do everything yourself because you do not have the time and/or patience to deal with it? Do your children do their own laundry, do they take out the trash, do they empty the dishwasher, do they help mow the lawn? Why is it so important to have children be involved in the day-to-day running of the household?
- How many of you are anxious about your children and what they will become? Do you believe it is a measure of your abilities as a parent in how your children turn out? At what point do you start allowing your children more and more freedom to make mistakes and learn from them? Do you micromanage your children's school work or do you allow them to take ownership; knowing that this could impact their grades

and standing in school? How do you balance pushing your children and giving them freedom?

- How many of y'all are insecure about being parents? In what areas do you struggle the most being a parent? What kind of family model did you grow up in? What kind of family model are you teaching your children?
- Is it important to surround yourself with fellow Christian parents and your children with Christian friends? Why?
- How much of parenting do you control? How much do you give up to God? How do you find that balance?