

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Note: The weekend of June 10/11 will be the last weekend for which we will write Discovery Questions before we take a summer break. We will resume again in the fall. If your group is still meeting, consider going to friends.church/books-resources/ and check out “RightNow Media” for some studies you can do together.

Rooted Experience: Our desire for Life Groups is to continue the rhythms of Rooted that you experienced (Prayer, serving, sharing your story) when you first went through Rooted. The next two weeks of Rooted are focused on “what does God want from my life”, and we’re asking Life Groups to look for an opportunity to serve together. If you connected to a ministry or serve opportunity through Rooted, we encourage you to re-connect with that ministry again! The number one factor in making a lasting impact is consistency, and many of our partners that we serve would love to have you and your groups come back. If you need fresh ideas or areas to serve, please feel free to email paigew@friends.church to find the right fit for your group.

David and His Kids
“Pressure Points” Series
May 27/28, 2017

Main Idea

We model for our children what is most important.

Discovery Questions

1. If you could have coffee with any historical figure (apart from Jesus!), whom would you choose? Why? What would you want to ask them?

This weekend in our series through the life of David, we looked at the aftermath of David’s affair with Bathsheba. God had said to David in 2 Samuel 12:10 that as a result of killing Uriah, the “sword” was now never going to leave David’s household. This meant that violence and destruction was always going to be a part of David’s family. As we learned this weekend, God then allowed David’s family to suffer the consequences of the poor decisions David made as a Father. David didn’t always model for his children the best way to live, and thus his family repeated some of his mistakes.

For our Discovery Questions today, we’ll look at a passage in Scripture that talks about the importance of modeling for our children our faith and our love for God. Then we’ll talk about the kind of model we’re providing for those who are around us.

2. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

- a. What commands does Moses give his people in 6:1-5? What promises does Moses give if they follow these commands?
- b. Focus now on Deuteronomy 6:6-9. In these verses, how does Moses instruct the Israelites to pass on these commandments? Does anything stand out to you about these instructions?

3. a. What did your parents teach you—either through words or by their example—about what was most important in this life? What “model”—positive or not so positive—did they leave for you?

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Leader Guide

1. If you could have coffee with any historical figure (apart from Jesus!), whom would you choose? Why? What would you want to ask them?

This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.

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- a. **What commands does Moses give his people in 6:1-5? What promises does Moses give if they follow these commands?**
- b. **Focus now on Deuteronomy 6:6-9. In these verses, how does Moses instruct the Israelites to pass on these commandments? Does anything stand out to you about these instructions?**

For part “a,” the main command is found in vv. 4-5: the Israelites are to love God with all of their heart, soul and strength (essentially one’s entire being). The “promises” associated with these commands are found in vv. 2-3: God will give them a long life, it will go “well” with them in the land and they will become a numerous people.

For part “b,” these commands are to be “impressed” upon their children—the word “impress” means “to sharpen.” Literally, that verse reads, “you shall sharpen your children.” This “sharpening” is to occur at all times of the day: when they sit at home, when they walk along the road, and when they lie down. Further, Moses instructs them that they should be “surrounded” by these commandments; they are to tie them on their hands, bind them on their foreheads, and write them on the doorframes of their houses and gates. Likely, some of this was meant figuratively (though some Jewish people interpret them literally); the command to love God was to be such a way of life that it would influence everything they did; it was to be the “lens” through which they viewed life.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

3. a. What did your parents teach you—either through words or by their example—about what was most important in this life? What “model”—positive or not so positive—did they leave for you?
- b. Who in your life has provided the best “model” of what being a Christian looks like? What was it about their example that stood out to you?

For part “a,” there may be some of us who didn’t have the best examples as parents, who left us with things we’ve had to make up for in our own lives. That’s understandable. Fortunately, we have in our heavenly Father a perfect parent who is able to make up for the shortcomings of our earthly parents. Hopefully God has also provided other positive role models in our lives for what a life of faith looks like, which is what part “b” is getting at.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.

4. a. If a 7- or 8-year-old were to follow you around for week, what would they learn from your life about what is most important to you? What attitudes and behaviors would they learn from you?
- b. One of the things we learn from Deuteronomy 6:1-9 is that we’re called to model a life of faith to the younger generations. What would someone who followed you around learn about your faith by observing you?
- c. Who has God placed in your life right now that you can model your faith to? What things can you do to ensure that your faith is being modeled to those around you?

Young people are like sponges, and learn a lot about what matters in life from our example. While all of us would probably say that our faith is important to us, is that coming through in how we live our life? Are we choosing to pray when we face difficulties? Do we express our faith in God when struggles come our way? Do we share our faith with people we encounter? Do we make it a commitment to go to church on a regular basis?

For part “c,” obvious answers for parents will be their kids. For people who don’t have children at home, think of nieces, nephews, grandchildren, the kids of friends, or even kids at church.

Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.

5. Being a model to someone else of our faith in God presupposes that we spend enough time around those who can learn from us to leave an impression on them.
- a. If you’re the parents of children still at home, what can you do in your schedule to make sure you’re spending quality time with your children? What can you do during that time to help model for them the importance of your faith?
- b. If your kids are not home, or you don’t have children, what ways could you find to pour into the lives of younger people around you? Think of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, students at church, etc.

Sometimes our schedules are so busy we literally have to “schedule” time with our children. While some may balk at that, actually putting “Time with the Kids” in our calendar is better than

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

not spending any time at all. As we talked about this weekend, a good thing to do is to begin any time with our kids with a prayer. Even a short prayer in the car before driving to a fun destination or on a vacation can leave a big impression on those who observe us. For those who don't have kids at home, it's good to be deliberate about other young people that have been placed in our life. Scheduling time to take a niece or nephew to a fun place, for example, can both help the parents by providing babysitting, and help the kids by allowing us to be a positive influence in their lives.

Spend 7-10 minutes on this question in its entirety.