



Spiritual Growth In the Christian Family

A Bible study on the basis, boundaries, blessings, and bread of the Christian home.

Basis

2 Peter 3:15-18

1. Describe what point you would consider someone “mature” in the faith? What point do most consider “mature enough” in the faith?
2. What is the opposite of falling away from faith?
3. How can your family “be on guard” against those who distort the Scriptures?

Eph 6:4, Eph 4:11-13

4. Describe God’s plan for building up the church (and the Christian home). Who is to be involved in the work? Who is to be included in his plan for growth? What is to be the goal?

Eph 6:10-13

5. How do we stand strong? Why is it so important to stand in this way?

Christopher says he can get along just fine with the stuff he learned from his pastor in confirmation class. He says that is all his children need too. Is this attitude both sinful and dangerous? If your child or spouse had this attitude how would you go about convincing them of the importance of growing in faith?

Boundaries

1. Recall what Peter warned about (above). What temptation is there when you think you have learned the Scriptures well?

Exodus 20:8, Col 2:16-17, Heb 10:25

2. The Sabbath law was only given for the people of Israel to lead them to the time of Christ. Why is it dangerous to demand the New Testament believer worship on a certain day? What is the opposite danger?

Hebrews 4:1-2

3. What happens when we turn growth in faith into a mere academic exercise? How do we avoid this danger?

Logan has made it all the way through college with high scores and a master’s degree in science. He says that there are certain parts of the Bible which he has read but doesn’t agree with. He explains “The Bible was written in an old culture that didn’t understand a lot of things we do today. We just know many parts of it are wrong.” But he still wants his family to be Christian, just more progressive. What would you tell Logan if he had indicated to you that he was looking for a church home which wouldn’t bring his children back to “the ignorance of the past”?

Blessings

Eph 4:11-16

1. Take a look at these verse again and the additional concluding phrases. What blessings come from being grounded in the Word?

Hebrews 5:11-14

2. What aspects of wisdom do we gain as we chew on the “meaty” parts of the Bible?

Victor is a quiet guy. Conversation about spiritual topics with his children is just not a big part of his routine. He thinks that spiritual matters are too private to talk about much with his kids. He never prays with his wife. He doesn't lead his family in regular Scripture devotions. He would die before you'd ever catch him trying to teach his sons how to sing, “Beautiful Savior.” But he says he is very religious and believes strongly that the Bible is true. What would you do if Victor started talking to you about his concerns for the spiritual well-being of his children?

Bread

Acts 2:38-39

1. Discuss what we mean by “the means of grace.” What does this mean for the Christian family?

Psalms 78:1-4

2. Evangelism and growth in faith starts with your own home. What things can families do each day to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord”?
3. WELS has long benefited from its strong support of Christian schools at both the congregational and national level. Many mission fields also benefit from the use of Christian schools. How would you explain the benefits of operating a school ministry? Explain your answer in light of God's Word.

Scan through Exodus 12:1-30 (especially 12:26-27) Read Exodus 13:14-16

4. What was an important purpose behind the rituals God gave ancient Israel?
5. What rituals might you see in a spiritually healthy Christian home today? How can these rituals be emptied of meaning? How are they best used to bring about growth in faith?
Discuss: What rituals or traditions does your family use to impress the Word of the Lord on your family? What rituals might you like to start using more?
6. (pair up exercise) Discuss together the pros and cons/strengths or shortcomings of your situation in the past and now. After this exercise, evaluate the spiritual food diet which your family is getting each day. Is it a healthy and “meaty” dose? Does it provide for growth? Develop a good plan for further growth this summer.

Bill has no idea where to begin. His family didn't have any structure that provided spiritual growth in the home. He doesn't feel qualified to talk about God or lead a family devotion. What could he do for his family? Where might he begin?

7. Share what you had found helpful if you had God's Word when you were a child.
8. Share what you have found helpful for your family to stay connected to Jesus this past year.