



BiG iDEA SMALL GROUP DiSCUSSiON GiDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

05.08/09.10 // To Save a Family: Understanding Each Other

BiG iDEA: *Become intentional in communicating your love to your loved ones!*

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: What type of family did you grow up in? Large, small, both parents, single parent, city, country, etc. What favorite things did your family do together?

Option 2: What changes do you see in families since the time you grew up? Your parents? What challenges do these changes present?

// Questions for Discussion _____

Strong Families Know Each Other

1. It was reported that 80% of problems brought to counseling agencies were the result of poor communication.

What are some ways that communication could be defined?

If you told someone close to you exactly what you were going to do today, would that be good communication? How could it be made better?

What are some barriers to good communication?

2. John 9: 1

As he (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth

Jesus and His disciples saw a blind man. The disciples saw a lesson in theology and the neighbors really did not see him at all. Jesus actually saw a person.

Do we ever not really see a person? Why do you think that is?

How would seeing a person for who he really is help communication?

What would be some ways to do this?

Keys to be a Strong Family Member

3. Pay attention to each other.

What are some things that keep us from paying attention to each other?

What would be some ways to intentionally pay attention?

What does it feel like when someone gives you undivided attention when you talk?

4. Ask questions.

“What do you want?” John 1:37 “Do you want to get well?” John 5:6

“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” John 6:5

What are some benefits in asking questions?

What would be some questions to ask?

What would be some pitfalls in not asking questions?

5. Loving means listening. James 1: 19

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry....

Why does this verse have 1 quick and 2 slows? Quick to listen and slow to speak, slow to become angry.

What things can we do to be better listeners? To help others be better listeners?

6. Communicate love through touch. Mark 1: 40 - 41

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees. "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said, "Be clean!"

What did Jesus risk in touching the leper?

How often do you think the leper was touched?

Why did Jesus take the risk and touch the leper? How important was the touch to the leper?

How important is touch to us? Do some have a hard time admitting the importance of touch?

Love Languages

7. Words of affirmation. Proverbs 18: 20 - 21 NLT

Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction. The tongue can bring death or life...

What do you think of the children's rhyme 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.'?

What are some ways we can encourage others by the way we talk?

What are some ways we can keep our negative talk in check?

8. Quality time.

What is the balance between quality and quantity of time?

How would quality time with others be defined? With God?

Are men's ideas of quality time different than women's? How can we take that into account?

9. Receiving gifts.

What is meant by the phrase 'It's the thought that counts' when giving a gift?

How does that apply to our gifts to God?

Have the group share some gifts that were simple, but thoughtful and touched them.

10. Acts of service.

What does this mean?

How should these be done? How can you find out which acts are most valued?

11. Physical touch.

What are some ways we can implement this?

What are some things we need to be careful with when touching?

// **Application** _____

Read and commit to memory James 1: 19

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry....

Ask your family members what their love language is - practice them.

Improve relations with family members.

- 1. Spend some time paying attention to every member of the family each day.**
- 2. Do something thoughtful. Something they would like.**
- 3. Develop a habit of touching with your family. 8 to survive, 12 to thrive.**

// **Prayer** _____

To build better relationships with our family members and with God.

To help each of us understand others better.

