



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).

05.22/23.10 // To Save a Family: Strong Families Raise Good Decision Makers

BiG iDEA: : *Love God, live His Word, and teach your children to do the same.*

// **Ice Breaker** _____

Option 1: What would you say was your second best decision? (We will assume that accepting Jesus is your first best decision!) What about your worst?

Option 2: If money were not an issue, what vacation would you decide to take?

// **Questions for Discussion** _____

1. Deuteronomy 6: 4 - 7

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Why is it essential that we love God?

How will this make better decision makers?

What is meant by all of our souls and all of our strength? What would be some examples of this?

2. Refer to verse 6, in question 1.

'These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.'

What is meant that the commandments should be on our hearts?

Why is it important that we actually live out biblical principles?

What would our children (or others) think if we spoke about obeying God, but yet didn't live that way?

3. Refer to verse 7, in question 1.

'Impress them (God's Commandments) on your children.'

What is meant by this?

What kinds of things should be 'impressed'?

How is this different than lecturing? Why is it more effective?

4. Refer to verse 7, in question 1.

'Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.'

When should we talk about God's ways?

Where should we talk about God's ways?

How can we naturally incorporate this into our everyday lives?

5. Deuteronomy 11: 26 - 28

²⁶ See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse- ²⁷ the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸ the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

What are some benefits if our children (and us) obey God's commands?

What happens if they (we) don't?

Why is teaching God's ways to our children so important?

6. 2 Timothy 1:5

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice...

What part do parents play in developing someone's faith? What about grandparents and other family members?

7. 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

How do you think the Bible thoroughly equips us?

How can we help and encourage our children to read, study and meditate on the Bible?

How important is it to be a good role model?

8. The roots of wisdom begin with God. Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding

How do you think fear could be defined in this verse?

Why is it the beginning of wisdom?

How is God's wisdom different than our culture's definition of wisdom?

10. The results of wisdom come from His Word. Psalm 97: 103 - 105

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path

What are some of the benefits that can come from the Bible?

How can we make sure that we actually apply what we learn from the Bible in our everyday lives?

How can we teach our children they are on the right path in life?

11. The rewards of wisdom are wise children. Proverbs 23: 15 - 16

My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right

What is the result of using God's plan to raise children?

When do you think it is too late to teach your children God's ways?

How can you affect your children if they are adults on their own?

12. What things hinder us from teaching our children God's ways?

What could be some things that would help us to overcome these obstacles?

Why do you think some children rebel against a Christian upbringing?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory . Proverbs 4: 1 - 2

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding.
I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

Love God, live His Word, and teach your children to do the same.

Love God:

Talk and pray with Him, putting His will above yours, wanting to please Him, hang out with others that love Him.

Live His Word:

Read the Bible daily, pray for help understanding and applying it. Use a modern version that is easy to understand. Stay involved in a small group to learn how to apply God's principles.

Teach your children:

If you love God and are living to please Him, you will model the right behaviors and naturally talk about God's principles.

// Prayer _____

That we would all love God, live His Word and teach our children to do the same.

For any and all decisions in our and our children's lives.