



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).

06.05/06.10 // To Save a Family: Strong Families Have Faith

BiG iDEA: : *Faith is like a house plant and it can die unless we work hard to grow it.*

// Ice Breaker _____

**Option 1: What things do you put your faith in, even when you don't know how they work?
(Lights in the house, brakes on the car, TV, etc) Why do you trust that they work?**

Option 2: What would you say is your favorite season? Why is that?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. **Hebrews 11: 1** Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
**What does the culture think about putting your faith into something you cannot see?
If someone asks you why you have faith in God, what would you say?**

2. **James 2 : 26**
As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
**What would be some examples of 'deeds' in this verse?
Do deeds get you to heaven?
Why are they noted as so important here?**

3. **Galatians 5: 22 - 23 The Fruit of the Spirit.**
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
**How do we know that faith is active in our lives?
How can we grow these 'Fruits of the Spirit?'**

4. **Matthew 13: 23**
But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."
**How does living out the 'Fruits of the Spirit' help develop good soil?
Why does developing relationships with others help develop good soil?
How much influence does a Christian have if he doesn't live like one? What if he does?**

5. **1 Corinthians 3: 6 - 7**

God says, “ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow

In the message, Mark said that the seed was Time and Conversation.

When you spend time with someone, what does that say to them? What type of time should it be? Is it possible to spend too much time with your family? Why or why not?

Why is it sometimes necessary to have awkward conversations with someone? Why is patience and perseverance required? What do awkward conversations build?

6. Referring to the verse in question 5.

Who ultimately makes faith grow? How do you feel about this?

What is your part in this growth for your faith? For your family's faith?

7. Referring to the verse in question 5, Mark said that water was Trust and Encouragement.

What happens to a relationship when trust isn't there?

What are some basic ways to build trust in a relationship?

8. Hebrews 3: 12 - 13

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Why is encouragement so important in a family (or any relationship)?

When should it be given?

Have the group share some of examples of how they encourage others.

9. Psalm 119: 5 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Ephesians 6: 8 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Mark noted that prayer was like light to a plant.

Why do you think he said that?

When and why should we pray?

What happens when we pray together?

10. Deuteronomy 6: 4 - 9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Why is it important to love God?

Why is it important to study and teach our children God's Commands (Bible)?

How can these affect the faith of you and your family?

11. Proverbs 14: 26

He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Why does the fear of the Lord create a secure fortress?

Why will that be a refuge to our children?

What things are in our culture that you think our children need a refuge from?

How does that make you feel?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory . Proverbs 14: 26

He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Grow Faith in your family

Cultivate Good Soil: Faith; Live the Fruit of the Spirit

Plant Good Seeds: Time and Conversation

Water: Trust and Encouragement

Light: Prayer

// Prayer _____

That we use the model from the message to develop faith in our families.

That we would have faith to believe that we can make a positive change with God's help.

