

Life Group Discussion Guide - On Mission To My Family
Climate Change

This weeks sermon gave us a look at how prayer can & should be a major tool in how we go on mission to our family. Whether we are a spouse, child, grandparent or grown single adult, we all have a form of family in which God has called us to reveal Jesus & encourage onto His agenda.

Q? In your childhood, what place do you remember prayer having within your family? Was it a regular part of life, a rare occasion or somewhere in between?

Explain: _____

Speaking a prophetic warning & encouragement to Simon Peter in Luke 22:31-32
Jesus says: *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

Note: *God did indeed give Satan permission to test Peter with an inward irritation aimed at separating him from faith.*

Q? What stands out to you in this passage? **Discuss:** _____

Q? If you knew that Satan was demanding permission from God to sift one of your family members in this way, would your response be similar to Jesus or not? How does Jesus response help us within the context of family? **Explain:** _____

Dave talked about 4 ways we could respond to confrontation & conflict within the family unit:

- #1. Passivity:** Ignoring, avoiding or disconnecting from it.
- #2. Prevention** *“of consequences”*: Engaging the issue yet enabling more of the same by a refusal to allow the pain of consequences.
- #3. Panic:** Going overboard with counseling & correcting- *“kicking a dead horse”*

#4. Prayer: Learning prayer as our 1st response & dominant posture through the necessary conversations, consequences & corrections needing to be made throughout the process of repentance & reconciliation.

Q? In all honesty, knowing none of us have arrived, of these 4 possible responses to family issues, which do you initially lean toward? Maybe you have another not listed... **Explain:** _____

In the sermon, Dave gave the following point:

PRAYER ALLOWS US TO DISCERN / DESTROY OUR FOE NOT OUR FAMILY

Read the following scriptures supporting this idea:

Ephesians 6:12 *For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places .*

Matthew 16:23 (Peter rebuking Jesus, by discouraging the Lord from embracing the cross) *But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."*

Q? From these passages, what stands out to you? How do they challenge us to separate Family from Foe in our call to our home? **Explain:** _____

Read Philippians 4:4-8 aloud in your group

Q? What can we learn from this passage that would help us deepen our mission to our family? What stands out to you specifically? **Explain:** _____

Q? In your own family, what steps could you take to strengthen, deepen or expand the presence of prayer? **Discuss:**

Challenge: Create a basic, realistic strategy to begin or expand the mission of spiritual climate change in the family through prayer. It would be a good idea to bring everyone involved in on the conversation and creation.