

The logo consists of a white circle with a small notch at the top, containing the text "IDMC" in a bold, sans-serif font, with the word "MOVEMENT" in a smaller, all-caps font below it.

IDMC
MOVEMENT

LIFE GROUP STUDY MATERIAL

STRONGER TOGETHER



SESSION #5

RAISING GODLY GENERATIONS

LESSON AIM

To equip parents to intentionally train the next generation in godly faith.

VIDEO LESSON

Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0f_g2NI4s4Q

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ESV

INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Spiritual Parenting

Spiritual legacy begins in the home. The Bible calls parents to love God wholeheartedly and to diligently teach His commands to their children. Faith is never automatically passed down; it must be intentionally lived out and taught to the next generation.

Parents have the sacred responsibility of discipling the next generation, not only through formal instruction, but through the everyday rhythms of life. Each generation is called to tell the next about the Lord and His works in a way that equips them to pass it on to those who follow in future.

The book of Judges warns what happens when this responsibility is neglected:

“And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.”

Judges 2:10 ESV

The people of God in Joshua's time were busy doing the work of God, yet they failed to pass on their faith. As a result, the next generation grew up knowing the victories of their fathers, but not the God who worked through them.

The principle is clear: what one generation neglects, the next generation often rejects!

Reflection Question for Parents: Does your life model a wholehearted love for God that inspires your children to follow him too?

When Life Gets Overloaded, Love Gets Overlooked!

When life becomes overloaded, the love parents have for their children can be unintentionally neglected. Busyness and distractions can push faith and family to the sidelines. Hurry, debt, fatigue, and emotional strain make it harder to invest the time and energy needed to raise the next generation. Recognising these pressures is the first step to keeping love and spiritual guidance at the heart of parenting.

Shape Their Hearts Before the World Shapes Their Habits

Spiritual parenting involves guiding children in the ways of the Lord through both teaching and example. It focuses on shaping their hearts before the world shapes their habits. Parents are called to instruct their children in Scripture, helping them grow in wisdom and faith. This responsibility falls mainly on the fathers. As the Bible says,

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

Consistent training equips children to follow God wholeheartedly, even as they grow into adulthood.

Parents Cannot Pass On What They Do Not Possess

Parents cannot pass on what they do not possess; discipling the next generation first begins with themselves. Effective spiritual parenting starts with addressing the deep issues in their lives. Parents need to take note of three things that can hinder their walk with God:

1. An unsundered life, with only token commitments, limits their ability to guide their children.
2. An unhealed heart, carrying past wounds or conflicts, hinders the love and instruction parents offer.

3. Unexamined patterns, holding onto what is familiar, prevent parents from intentionally shaping the next generation.

For parents, to pass on a strong and lasting faith, the first place to start is within themselves.

Strong Families are Guided by Grace and Grounded in Truth

Strong families build their homes on a foundation of both grace and truth. Parents provide acceptance, affection, availability, affirmation, accountability, and authority, guiding children with love and structure. Key moments—social, sensitive, and spiritual—become opportunities to nurture faith and character. For parents even in their brokenness, pointing children to God as the ultimate hero shapes their spiritual journey.

You don't need to be the hero of your children's story. You just need to keep pointing them to the Hero of yours.

~ Rev. Paul Jeyachandran

Spiritual parenting is a lifelong journey of guiding, modeling, and pointing children to God. By living out their faith with intentionality, parents leave a legacy that can shape generations to come.

Reflection Question for Parents: What legacy of faith am I leaving behind, and what kind of God will my children come to know through me?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions for group facilitators: Every group is different. You may modify the discussion questions to suit your group and you do not need to use all the questions in the group discussion.

Question 1: If you could pass on one value or lesson to the next generation, what would it be and why?

Question 2: How does your own love for God influence the way you parent or mentor others?

Question 3: What are some ways busyness or stress has affected your ability to give time and attention to spiritual growth in your family?

Question 4: How can we intentionally disciple our children at home or the next generation in our community?

Question 5: Which of the three hindrances—unsurrendered life, unhealed heart, or unexamined patterns—resonates most with you, and why?

Question 6: How can acceptance, affection, availability, affirmation, accountability, and authority be practically applied in your home or community?

Question 7: Reflecting on your family or community, what legacy of faith do you hope to leave behind, and how can you actively point others to God as the ultimate hero?

Question 8: [For singles] As a single person, how can you intentionally invest in the next generation or mentor younger people in faith?

Question 9: [For singles] What lessons about faith, character, and love from your own upbringing can you model or pass on in your workplace, church, or community?

Question 10: [For singles] How can you prepare yourself spiritually and emotionally now, so that if you do become a parent in the future, you are ready to guide and disciple the next generation?

NEXT STEPS

Reflect on your own faith and consider areas where you can grow in wholehearted devotion to God and in guiding the next generation. Look for practical ways to integrate spiritual teaching into daily life and model godly character to your children. We may not have been perfect in our parenting, but even in our brokenness, we can point our children to Jesus. Over the next two weeks, take one intentional step to live out your faith consistently and begin building a lasting spiritual legacy for the next generation.