

La Familia de Dios

7 - Quality Time with the Father

Open by asking: "How is everyone doing?"

Introduction: "We're taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we're taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it's easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. God calls us family. The purpose of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about His family and how it can be similar and different from what we experience in our earthly families."

Last week we talked about God being our Father and what exactly the Bible means by that. As our heavenly Father, God is good, perfect, and runs toward us even when we turn from Him. He desires to provide the very best for us in every single situation.

Transition to the Scriptures

A good father also cares deeply about spending time teaching and training his child to be a person of wisdom. Listen to God's instruction to the Israelites in how to raise their families to know Him.

READ Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

- What did God want the Israelites to do with His Word?
- Give a practical example of what that could look like today?
- How might you experience this in your relationship with God as He teaches you about Himself?

Spending Time with our Father

The book of Proverbs was often used by Hebrew dads as they spent time carefully teaching their children about God's wisdom and how to live life the very best way. Their time together probably looked a lot like Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Fathers wanted to be good dads. They wanted to teach their children to pay close attention to what the Lord says because they cared so deeply for them. The book of Proverbs states that real wisdom begins with God and His perspective. In the first nine chapters you can hear a conscientious father's desire to instruct his son in how to live life wisely. Listen to His endearing, Fatherly words..... **(Have each group member look up the following verses; Prov. 1:8, Prov. 2:1-7, Prov. 4:1-6. You could even come to your familia with them already printed out.)**

As our good, perfect Father, God absolutely delights in spending time with you! Just like the Hebrew dads, He wants good hang time with you to talk about life. He is a dad who cares deeply about growing you in to a person of wisdom.

Barriers to Time with our Father

Even with some of our best intentions to spend time with our heavenly Daddy, there are barriers that can get in the way.

- What are some potential barriers that can rob us of our precious time with God? (Sin, Shame, a difficult relationship with an earthly father that is projected on to God, time/choice management, the enemy, the world's distractions, God appears to be silent, pain and suffering, etc).
- What are some steps that you can take to overcome some of those barriers?

- Where do you need help?

How to spend time with God

READ Deuteronomy 32:46-47.

- How does God describe His word in this passage? Why does he want His people to take it to heart?

God's word is our primary agent for change and for wisdom. It is not a cold document or merely a report, but a living collection of 66 books of History, poetry, Law, and prophecy. God considers it our life and He talks to us through it.

What are some ways we can spend time interacting with God's Word? (Only one way would be boring!!)

- Read the Bible. Begin small, like maybe a chapter at a time. (A simple place to start would be the Book of John) [Note: You may need to help people in your familia find where the Book of John is located.]
- Listen to an audio version of the Bible.
- Pray, read, then talk to God about what you just read.
- Read a Psalm (Found in the Old Testament, the first half of the Bible) and pray it back to God.
- Journal your prayers.
- Spend time with others reading and then share what The Lord taught you as you read.
- God's word can be read, listened to, prayed, sung, drawn or journaled about!
- Memorize it
- Watch a video

How can you begin to spend regular time with God?

(As a group, brainstorm ways to cultivate spending regular time interacting with God's Word. A relationship grows though time spent together. Help each other learn to begin spending regular time with Him.)

Conclusion

READ Hebrews 4:12.

- How does God describe His own Word?

They are living, active and powerful! They have the power to grow us up. Our Daddy delights in sharing His wisdom with us.

READ 1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn Babies, crave pure spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up in your salvation," There is no way to grow without it's nutrients.

Pray and ask The Lord to deepen your relationship with your heavenly Daddy. Pray for barriers to be removed. Pray for a desire to spend time soaking in His wisdom. Pray that you would long for the pure milk of the Word. Pray you would grow in to a person of wisdom.