

A FAMILY BLESSING

For this reason I kneel before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth
derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches
he may strengthen our family with power
through his Spirit in our inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

And I pray that we,
being rooted and established in love,
may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the
love of Christ, and to
know this love that surpasses knowledge—
that we may be filled to the measure
of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do
immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory...for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Conversation

#1

We will begin our journey by taking inventory of our roots that are deeply grounded in truth and the weeds that are keeping us from flourishing and growing in our home & faith.

Every conversation will have 3 parts: Lean - Lean into God's word and presence.

Learn - Ask God to help us be open to what He would have us learn as we assess and reflect on our lives.

Live- We will take action steps in love & grace as we move forward in faith.

CONVERSATION #1: BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Part 1: Lean- Let's lean into God's word and see what He has to say about building our foundation. Look at Matthew 7: 24-27. What does vs 24 say is the reason the wise builder's home built on the rock doesn't crumble? Who experiences the storm? Notice God doesn't promise a storm-free life to those who love and obey His word.

Part 2: Learn

What is the current spiritual environment of your home? Describe.

What kind of relationship would you like for your children to have with the Lord?

What would you say are your own greatest spiritual needs at this moment?
(Be specific.)

What distracts your family from living according to your spiritual values?

What would you say is your responsibility in Christ-centered parenting? (Be specific.)

How are you fulfilling that responsibility? (Be specific.)

Part 3: Live

What actions do I need to stop, start or continue doing to grow closer to God?

Stop doing: _____

Start doing: _____

Continue doing: _____

What 2 actions steps will you take to strengthen your spiritual walk? When?
Be specific. The more specific you are the more likely you'll do it.

1. _____

2. _____

Who will keep you accountable or how will you measure the success of each action step?

Conversation

#2

Our values promote identity and help our children see they are a part of something bigger than themselves.
Our values give us give us direction and purpose. It's what we believe and how we live it out!
Your values drive your mission as a family. Later you'll come up with a mission statement so it's important to start identifying your core values.

CONVERSATION #2 - DISCOVER WHAT DRIVES YOU----> CORE VALUES

Lean: What does God say about our values and how we live them out? Let's lean into Romans 12:1-2 Our values should not conform to the patterns of this world but instead we allow His truth to guide us. We live these values out, in light of God's goodness and mercy for us. From the mundane to the most important tasks we bring them to Him as an offering of worship. Yes, even doing laundry, wiping bottoms, sassy teenager, forgetful spouse, driving in traffic... all of it. We do this not to gain His love but because of His love.

Learn: What values do you want to pass on to your children? Look over the list and circle ones that stand out. At the end I have blanks for you to add your own if you don't see something listed.

joy/laughter	generosity	adventure	family
kindness	commitment	forgiveness	determination
patience	gratitude	service	courage
creativity	unity	respectful	trustworthy
wise	love	perseverance	excellence
intelligence	honesty	teachable	-----
obedience	faith	team work	-----
resilience	hardworking	community	-----

Pick your top 5 and write them down below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Live - There's no time for blaming or shaming. So don't go there! This is a time to reflect, repent if needed and move forward in His grace and His wisdom.

Take an honest look at how you live. Does your day-to-day living reflect these values?_____

Now it's time to dream. Discuss your list with your spouse. Come to an agreement on the 8 values you want to be a priority in your family. Choose 8 you are both passionate about and want to see lived out in your family.

Discuss how these core values will help you make family decisions. How will you teach and model these values? _____

End conversation # 2 praying the "Family Blessing" found in Ephesians 3:14-21.

What God commissions, he sees through to the end. He will not forsake us in the work he has given us. As we go and make disciples..., we can be assured of Christ's very presence. "And Behold, I am with you always, to the end." (Matt 28:20)
-Gloria Furman