

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

How Deep the Father's Love for Us, 10,000 Reasons, Trust and Obey

WELCOME

If you were to customize your official ID, what sort of information would you want to permanently be on it? Why?

WORD

EPHESIANS 6:4

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

ROMANS 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We discussed last Sunday the first part of "T" – TRAIN and TEACH from the MOTIVATE acronym. Today we will focus on **TEACHING**. The principle of teaching we'll learn today is this: **INTENTIONAL LIFESTYLE TEACHING INTERNALIZES VALUES.**

In **Ephesians 6:4**, parents are reminded (the fathers, specifically) to stop provoking children to anger – in **Colossians 3:21**, the word used was "*exasperate*" (to frustrate intensely). How do parents do this? When they shout, curse, use bad words, or when they become unreasonable, always correcting and being hypocritical. This provokes children and affect them negatively.

Parents must instead **BRING THEM UP** (nourish, like putting fertilizer on garden soil) **in the DISCIPLINE and INSTRUCTION of the Lord** (Eph.6:4). We are to assume responsibility in teaching and training the people that the Lord has entrusted to us, whether these are our children or our disciples. Remember, **IT IS BETTER TO BUILD BOYS THAN TO REPAIR MEN**. Teaching needs to happen early on in the "ball game". What are the essential things we need to teach others?

1. IDENTITY – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SELF

Who you are will impact your behavior and help you understand your purpose in life. If you don't know who you are, you are going to be insecure, you will not know the purpose of life. For some people, they define themselves by the money, possessions, or positions of power that they have – and these things may lead to devastation because they are all temporary and can change almost abruptly.

As parents and disciplers, we must reinforce certain truths that encourage others to learn to embrace who they are in Christ. For example, "What you do does not define you". Who you belong to – who you are in CHRIST – that is your real identity. Don't be intimidated. Don't be pressured by the world's system to define who you are. You are precious. As

followers of Jesus, you are a child of God. If you don't know who you are, you will allow others to define who you are, you will be insecure.

Psalm 139:13-14 reminds us that we are special; we are fearfully and wonderfully made. **1 John 3:1** reminds us of the special truth that in Christ we are children of God! Why is this important? If your identity is not anchored in Christ, you will be insecure, you will be so sensitive, you get hurt easily, and get discouraged. That is why many people are depressed, many people are suicidal – because of insecurity. You need to know the reality of who you are in Christ, and what God says about you. **"My self-worth, my identity, is secure because of JESUS, and what He has done for me!"**

2. FAMILY – RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY

Family is important and should be our "comfort center". It should be a sanctuary for our children and family members. A place where you find security, unconditional love and acceptance. The family should also be an "encouraging center"– it should be a place where they are recharged spiritually and emotionally. Above all, a family should be a "training center" – it is where the RUBBER meets the ROAD. It is in the family where one learns how to interact with others. The moral standard to **"treat others the same way you want them to treat you..." (Matthew 7:12)** where Jesus advocates proactiveness ought to be learned at home. It is in the family where you learn to love one another, and forgive one another, to respect one another... and accept one another-- **LOVE in ACTION**. One sad reality is this: many of us are nicer to friends than to family members. We must learn to be thankful for the **"unchangeables** in our family life. We foster **love, happiness, respect, forgiveness, and acceptance** in family relationships. Another reality is that not all of us have good or ideal families – and this is one reason why the church body is relevant. In a discipleship group, these concepts can be practiced, and we can all be a positive influence to one another!

WORD (cont'd)

3. FRIENDS – FRIENDS AND MARRIAGE

The Bible reminds us in **1 Cor. 15:33** not to fool ourselves – friends can impact us negatively or positively. If we are parents, we must teach our children how to choose their friends – people who will impact their lives positively and also be able to let them grow closer to God. Adults must practice the same thing – as God has made us social beings, we must discern between the right and the wrong crowd and invest time in those that allow us growth in Christ. We are to protect the **5 FREEDOMS** as we wait for the right time for marriage: freedom from **distraction, unnecessary pain, isolation**, freedom to **develop God's gift and pursue His will**, and freedom from **immorality and its consequences**. Singles, do not allow yourselves to be in an isolated place, alone with the person whom you can easily fall into immorality with. We're also told that the only way to find **God's Best** is to **always be in God's Will, submit to God's Timing, and pursue God's Way**. **2 Cor. 6:14** reminds us to pursue relationships that lead to marriage with a clear standard: the person must be a committed follower of Jesus; they must love the Lord. Not only that, they must be respectful, diligent, disciplined, and must reflect characteristics that show his or her clear commitment

to Jesus Christ. Teach these things early on if you are a parent and emphasize this to your disciples who are singles!

4. WORLD – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Romans 12:2 is a reminder for us to not be conformed to the world– what it basically means is to not copy the world. Since the people to whom Paul was writing to were already copying the world, he instructs them to be **TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF THEIR MINDS**. Remember that you and I are always being molded, so it's important to know who we allow to mold our character. Is it the world and all its confusing and destructive influence, or is it God's clear standards and way of living? Note that **1 John 2:15-17** reminds us to be set free from the influence of the world which highlights the lust of the flesh, eyes, and the boastful pride of life. To impact the world, we must be **salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16)**. Some may say that they have failed and messed up. **2 Corinthians 5:17** reminds us that if we are truly IN CHRIST, we are renewed! We must teach those who have been entrusted to us by God that our identity and convictions must be based on who we are in CHRIST, and the purpose He has called for us to fulfill. **John 1:12** is a great anchor for our identity: **we are children of GOD, and we must live lives worthy of that qualification!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Self-Check.** Do you know who you really are? How do you see yourself? Where do you find your identity?
2. **Setting It Right.** Are right values taught well in your family or group? If you are not living up to God's standards, draw to Him and gain strength to fight and stand for what is right and pleasing to Him.
3. **Living It Out.** What CONVICTIONS will you share with others? Are these seen in your life?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for those you know who have anchored their identities in temporary things rather than in our eternal God. Seek ways to help them discover that their true identity and purpose in life can only be found in and through Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends