



**STRATEGIC  
IMPACT**  
INTERNATIONAL



and

**CRAZY COOL  
FAMILY**

***LEADER INTENSIVE TRAINING***®

***“GROW IN THE GREAT COMMISSION”***

# ***JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY***

***PARTICIPANT MANUAL v1.0 (2023)***



***STRATEGIC IMPACT***

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# WELCOME!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the *STRATEGIC IMPACT LEADER INTENSIVE TRAINING (LIT)*! We are excited to partner with *CRAZY COOL FAMILY* in bringing you this excellent material to help you on your *JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY*. Family is our first ministry priority and is the proving ground for Godly leadership. As 1 Timothy 3:5 states, “...for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

We are excited and grateful you have come. Our team has been praying for you for months in preparation for this training! In our time together, we will step away from the daily pressures of ministry to draw closer to Jesus and to each other. We will laugh together, cry together, and learn together as we explore Biblical teachings regarding the family, learn how to build quality relationships, and discover how to create a family culture that honors God.

The strength of your family will be determined by the strength of your family relationships. Jesus was asked, “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets’” (Matthew 22:36-40).

What is God’s desire for family? Relationship! Just as God, our Father, created us to be in relationship with Him and to enjoy His presence, He also wants us to first make our family relationships our top priority in building our family.

Remember Jesus could have chosen any commandment as most important — and He chose LOVE! He chose relationship. He chose connection, first to God and then to each other. Why? Because (1) that is the desire of His heart and (2) He knows that when we are in right relationship, our best life and our best family will follow.

We change our family and we change our world one relationship at a time!

Thank you again for joining with us! It is our honor to be with you!

Sincerely,

*The Strategic Impact and Crazy Cool Family Team*

## IDENTITY:

**We are a movement of like-minded leaders, passionately committed to Jesus Christ and to each other for the fulfillment of His Great Commission.**

## VISION:

**We exist to offer every person the only hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.**

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20*

## MISSION:

**We prayerfully identify and train Leaders to multiply Disciples who ignite Church Planting Movements everywhere.**

*"...and what you have heard from me in the presence of faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

- 2 Timothy 2:2

## STRATEGY:

**We establish Leadership Teams in Strategic Cities of the world to multiply Church Planting Movements among every people group.**

*"(Paul) took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." - Acts 19:9-10*

## PROCESS:

### VISION SEMINAR (VS)

"SEE THE GREAT COMMISSION."

*A one-day introduction to STRATEGIC IMPACT.*

### MULTIPLYING DISCIPLER LAUNCH (MDL)

"EXPERIENCE THE GREAT COMMISSION."

*A vision for and practical training in evangelism and making multiplying disciples.*

### LEADER LAUNCH (LL)

"LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION."

*An intensive experience in personal growth, leadership skills, and church planting.*

### LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD (JOURNEY)

*"LIVE, LEAD, AND LAUNCH THE GREAT COMMISSION." A LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR WORLD through multiplying disciples, churches, leaders, and movements.*

### LEADER INTENSIVE TRAININGS (LIT)

"GROW IN THE GREAT COMMISSION."

*Intensive experiences for those in the JOURNEY to grow in leadership character and leadership competency for the Great Commission.*

# KEY RELATIONSHIP CONCEPTS

## **PARENT-TO-GOD**

Relationship Goal: DEVOTION

- Your Spiritual Identity
- Your Spiritual Hearing
- Your Example

## **MARRIAGE**

Relationship Goal: UNITY

- Present Your Best Self to Your Spouse
- Bring Out the Best in Your Spouse
- Forgive and Serve Your Spouse
- Parent Together with Your Spouse

## **PARENT-TO-CHILD**

Relationship Goal: INSPIRATION

- Acceptance
- Connection
- Discipleship
- Inspiration

## **CHILD-TO-CHILD**

Relationship Goal: INVESTMENT

- Celebrate Differences
- Inspire Older Siblings
- Inspire Younger Siblings

## **CHILD-TO-GOD**

Relationship Goal: FAITH

- Pray
- Live
- Equip
- Validate
- Experience

# KEY CULTURE CONCEPTS

## **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Theme: Parents encourage extravagantly and correct carefully.

- You Put Identity Into Them
- You Correct Carefully
- You Avoid Anger

## **SAFETY**

Theme: Parents create a Safe Haven in their family where everyone in the family feels heard and appreciated.

- You Are Listening Parents
- You Are Not Lecturing Parents
- You Are Patient Parents

## **RELATIONAL DISCIPLINE**

Theme: Parents help children move from parent-control of their lives to self-control. The goal of discipline is freedom.

- Establish Controlled Obedience To Parents
- Encourage Willing Obedience To Parents
- Inspire Willing Obedience To God

## **UNITY**

Theme: Family unity is celebrating family uniqueness as we unite under family values.

- Celebrate Uniqueness in your Children
- Celebrate Uniqueness in your Spouse
- Choose and Establish Strong Family Values
- Define the Meaning of your Family Name



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***JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY***

***SESSION OUTLINES***

**STRATEGIC IMPACT - LEADER INTENSIVE TRAINING: JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY**  
**SESSION 1: THE KEYS TO A GODLY FAMILY**

**God's vision for your family**

1. Everyone in your family has a relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Everyone in your family has great relationships with all other \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Your family is a light to the world to help you Reach \_\_\_\_\_.

**Family Vision:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of your family will be determined by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your family relationships.

**Good relationships are the focus of your ministry to your family because relationships are most important to Jesus!**

*“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’” (Matthew 22:36-40)*

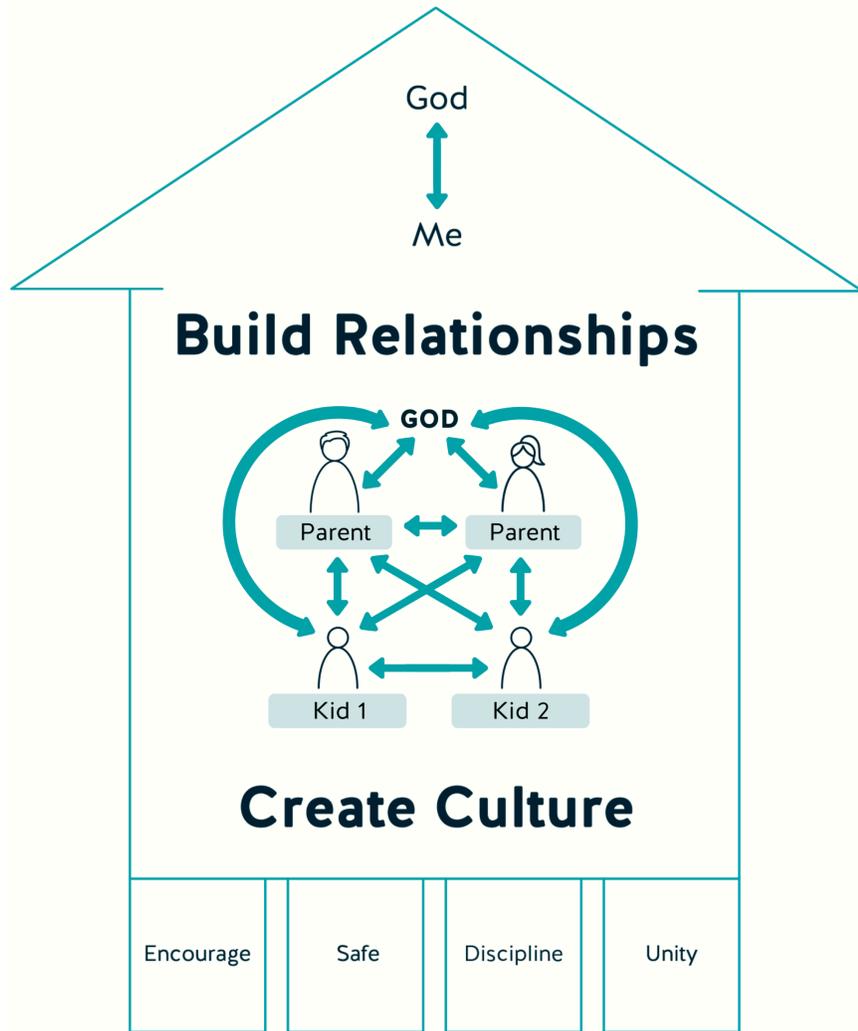
**Family Mission:** Your family mission should be to build a family where everyone in the family loves Jesus and loves each other deeply. The goal of family is to make every one those relationship lines strong!

You **Fulfill your Family Mission** by consistently pursuing the **Three Key Family Commitments** illustrated in the Three Commitment House.

**The Three Key Family Commitments are:**

1. Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ — You lead your family best when your relationship with God is strong.
2. Build \_\_\_\_\_ — With your spouse, you work to build deep, connected relationships throughout your family (notice the Family Dashboard in the center of the Three Commitment House).
3. Create \_\_\_\_\_ — We work hard to instill the Four Cultural Pillars as a reality in your family.

# Pursue God



## The Five Types of Relationships in your family:

1. Parent-to-God
2. Marriage
3. Parent-to-Child
4. Child-to-Child
5. Child-to-God

## The Four Culture Pillars (The Most Important Family Values):

The foundation of your family is the culture you build into your family. Culture is built by establishing the right family values. A **value** is something important to you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ — You encourage extravagantly and correct carefully.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ — You create a Safe Haven in your family where everyone in the family feels heard and appreciated.
3. Relational \_\_\_\_\_ — You help your children move from parent-control of their lives to self-control. The goal of discipline is freedom.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ — You celebrate the uniqueness of each person while uniting under common family values.

## As you pursue the Three Key Family Commitments in your family:

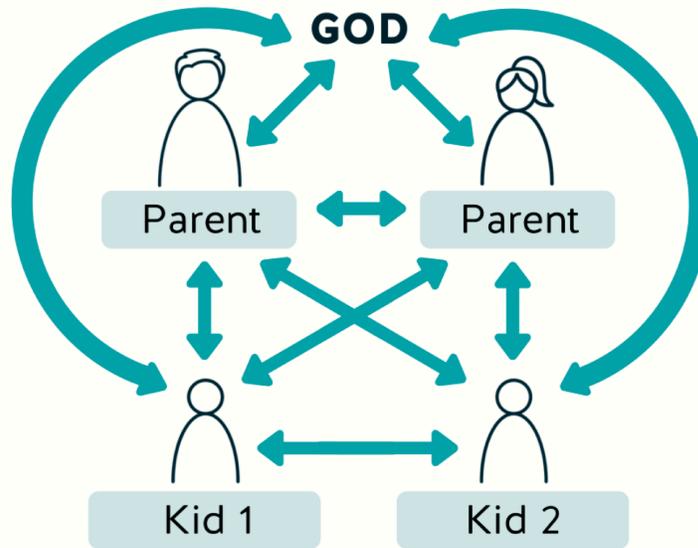
1. Each member of your family becomes a stronger disciple of Jesus, and
2. Your family becomes a blessing to everyone in the home and an example of the love of Jesus to those outside your home.

Fill in the blanks on your own House:

# Pursue \_\_\_\_\_



# Build \_\_\_\_\_



# Create \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____	_____	_____
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**Introduction:**

**PARENT-to-GOD**

Relationship Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

The best dads and moms are **first** sons and daughters of the King! The first and best thing you can do for your family is have a strong relationship with Jesus. The *STRATEGIC IMPACT JOURNEY* courses are one of the best ways for you to develop your Parent-to-God relationship.

God wants you to take the mindset of Jesus into your family. In your relationships with one another,

*“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

(Philippians 2:5-8)

The more you have the mindset of Jesus, the more you become the best spouse and best parent you can be!

**Three Key Parent-to-God Relationship Concepts:**

1. **Your Spiritual** \_\_\_\_\_ — You must know your own identity in Christ before you can show your children their identity in Christ.

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:13)

When you are filled with God’s love and you understand and embrace that you are His adopted child, the love in your hearts will overflow to your family! See *STAGE 1, TRAVEL GUIDE 2* in the *JOURNEY* course for further explanation of your identity in Christ.

2. **Your Spiritual** \_\_\_\_\_ — You must learn to hear God’s voice to enable you to make wise decisions in guiding your family.

Ephesians 1:17 says, “...keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Keep asking the Father for wisdom and revelation!

James 1:15 says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

3. **Your** \_\_\_\_\_ — Your children will follow your example much more than your instruction.

Remember in the *LEADER LAUNCH* the question “What is Christian Leadership?” It is motivating people (in this case, your children) from a foundation of godly character (your godly character) to accomplish a God-given vision (God’s plan for their lives).

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

### **PARENT-to-GOD EXERCISES**

- Memorize Philippians 2:5-8
  
- On a weekly basis, ask yourself the *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* in the *JOURNEY* course.
  
- Complete your *REST STOPS* with your *JOURNEY TEAM*.
  
- Ask the Lord this week about His vision for your family. The Lord wants to tell you specific insights to help each member of your family grow in relationship to Him and to the other family members. Here are some questions you can ask the Lord:
  - How can I encourage each member of my family this week?
  
  - What relationships in my family are struggling and need encouragement?
  
  - What can I do this week to bring more unity into my marriage and my family?
  
- Ask the Lord in prayer, then discuss with your spouse areas where you are being an example of the hope and love of Jesus and areas where you need improvement. Just like in the *JOURNEY* course, this is not an area of condemnation but an encouragement toward a deeper love of God for yourself and showing a deeper love of God to your family.

**Introduction:**

**MARRIAGE**

Relationship Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

A unified marriage helps you build a godly family. God wants a husband and a wife to become one flesh.

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)*

**Five Key Marriage Concepts:**

**1. Present Your \_\_\_\_\_ Self to Your Spouse**

Unity with your spouse starts with your unity to God. Remember the First Key Family Commitment is “Pursue God.”

*“...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)*

**2. Bring Out the Best in Your \_\_\_\_\_**

The best thing you can do for your spouse is help them Pursue God.

*“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female  
He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)*

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Spouse**

**Forgiveness** is a powerful tool because it reconciles our relationship with our spouse. How often are you to forgive your spouse? Start with seven!

*“...and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying,  
‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” (Luke 17:4)*

When you forgive your spouse for an offense, you reconcile that relationship. Forgiveness brings your marriage closer together. Unforgiven offenses create relationship wounds, prevent them from healing, and cause them to expand. Forgiven offenses bring relationship healing.

*“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*  
(Ephesians 4:32)

How does God’s forgiveness make you feel? Does it make you feel loved? In the same way, your spouse will feel loved when you forgive them.

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Spouse**

**Serving** is a powerful tool because it shows your spouse the special place they have in your life.

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* (Galatians 5:13)

Just as you follow God in forgiveness, you also follow God in serving. *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45).

How do you serve? (John 13:14)

Do the hard thing in serving. No task is beneath you.

Consider what your spouse needs and how can you serve them best?

#### 5. **Parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **with Your Spouse**

As your marriage comes together in unity, your parenting will also come together in unity, as well. You will learn how God created each of you uniquely and when the best of each of you come together in unity, together you will make a wise parenting team!

#### **Four ways to parent together in unity:**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ your spouse in front of your children.

Find things your spouse does well and make sure your children know about it. When your children see you celebrating your spouse, it makes them love and respect your spouse at a whole new level.

B. Talk about parenting differences in \_\_\_\_\_.

Discuss parenting differences in private and not in the moment. Often discussions involving parenting differences can result in arguments and harsh talking. When your children see those discussions, it puts fear in them about the stability of your marriage relationship. Further, often one spouse or both will disrespect one another in the discussion. It is better to discuss these matters in private and show unity with each other and respect for one another in front of your children.

C. Allow your spouse to make parenting \_\_\_\_\_.

Let your spouse make parenting mistakes. Three words will help you parent in unity, "Let it go." If your spouse is out of control, try your best to not correct them in that moment. Reduce the immediate harm as best you can and then talk about it later. Chances are your spouse knows they were not parenting well in that moment. You are not going to help by correcting them in front of the children. Give them a chance to cool off. Choose to support them, help them out of the situation, and encourage them to seek forgiveness later.

D. Frequently discuss the \_\_\_\_\_ you want in your home.

Unity in parenting is about shared values. A value is something important to us. As husband and wife, you are the leaders of your home. It is important you decide in unity what are the key values of your home. As you decide together what is important, when parenting issues arise, you are much more likely to be in agreement instead of being in conflict.

## MARRIAGE EXERCISES

- Spend some special time with your spouse this week. Do your best to listen to their heart and simply enjoy your time with them.
- Write your spouse a note telling them something you are grateful for in them.
- Encourage your spouse in areas of their life where God is working to help them be their best. For example, you might say, "I really see you being patient with the children. I believe it is making our home much more peaceful."
- Regularly discuss your family values with your spouse. Where is God speaking to both of you about the direction for your family? What should be most important? Where are you parenting together and where are there differences?
- Reflect on this question: How have you helped your spouse be their best this week?
- Make a point to praise your spouse in front of your children at least once this week. A wife might say, "Wow! Your father is such a great provider. He really works hard to make sure we have what we need to live." A husband might say, "Your mom does such a great job of reminding you to treat each other with kindness and respect! She sets a wonderful example to follow in this!"

**STRATEGIC IMPACT - LEADER INTENSIVE TRAINING: JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY**  
**SESSION 4: RELATIONSHIP 3 — PARENT-TO-CHILD**

**Introduction:**

**PARENT-to-CHILD**

Relationship Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

The better you \_\_\_\_\_ your child, the better you can \_\_\_\_\_ your child.

- Your child will only \_\_\_\_\_ you as much as they \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- Your children cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ to believe but must be \_\_\_\_\_ to believe.
- Your children get their identity from you \_\_\_\_\_ they get their identity from God.

**“Fourfold Pathway” to the Heart of Your Child:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 3:16-17 says, “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”*

Three things God spoke over His Son:

- A. I \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- B. I \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- C. I am \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Connection involves \_\_\_\_\_.

Connection involves \_\_\_\_\_.

Connection involves honoring your child as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Connection does not diminish your \_\_\_\_\_ as a parent.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Discipleship is simply walking with your children and showing them Jesus “along the way.”

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 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 6:6-7)*

The best discipleship with your children comes from them seeing you passionately devoted to Jesus and hearing you sharing your faith with them “along the way.”

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Your role as parents is to \_\_\_\_\_ them to make their own choice to follow God’s vision for their lives.

*“...and said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me...’” (Matthew 18:3-5)*

You will inspire your children toward loving Jesus with all their hearts when you honor them as Jesus honored them.

**Introduction:**

**CHILD-to-CHILD**

Relationship Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Key Child-to-Child Relationship Concepts:**

1. **Celebrate** \_\_\_\_\_ — All children are unique and so we celebrate the differences of each child.

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”*  
(Psalm 139:13-14)

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28)

Once you see God’s design in the differences in your children, you can learn how to see the differences as ways God is teaching you and your family to know each other better and to know Him better.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Older Siblings** — Older siblings are essential partners in the family.

**What Parents Teach the Older Sibling:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ — Cast vision for them. Their acceptance of their role is critical. Older siblings are your partner in raising great younger siblings.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ — Honor their time and their rights.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ — Help them see the power God has given them with their younger siblings.

- \_\_\_\_\_ — Recognize the annoyance of younger siblings and help them work through it.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Younger Siblings** — Younger siblings are blessings in the home.

**What Parents Teach the Younger Sibling:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ — Cast vision for them. The role of the younger sibling to be a blessing. *“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward”* (Psalm 127:3).
- \_\_\_\_\_ — Younger siblings need to respect their older siblings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ — Work out issues instead of tattling to parents every time there is conflict.
- \_\_\_\_\_ — Younger siblings show older siblings they value them.

When your children become best friends and support one another instead of fight with each other, you build the unity of your home and your family becomes full of joy and peace instead of conflict and stress.

**QUESTIONS and EXERCISES**

**How to Accept Your Child as an Individual:**

1. Seek to Understand Your Child
2. Believe the Best About Your Child
3. Appreciate the Uniqueness About Your Child

## **Ways to Connect With Your Children:**

1. Pursue Your Children
2. Enjoy Your Children
3. Honor Your Children

## **How to Discipline Your Children:**

1. Be a Model for Your Children
  - *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 11:1)
2. Be a Teacher for Your Children
  - *“You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”* (Deuteronomy 11:19)
3. Celebrate God’s Greatness with Your Children
  - *“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.”* (1 Chronicles 29:11)

**Introduction:**

**CHILD-to-GOD**

Relationship Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Five Key Child-to-God Relationship Concepts:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ — Ask God for the hearts of your children.

Pray fervently and often for your children. Is there anything more important to you than to have your children following Jesus with all their hearts? Then you should pray as Jesus commanded in His parable in Luke 18:1-7.

2. **Your** \_\_\_\_\_ — Your example is more important than your instruction.  
Your children will follow your example much more than your instruction.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ — Impress God's Word on their hearts "along the way."

*"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 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 6:6-7).*

No one learns to follow Jesus in a single day. Followers of Jesus learn it a little at a time. Your children are the same. They learn a little at a time, first by your example and then by your teaching.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ — Encourage questions and discussions about faith.

**Transparency** is encouraged because it opens the door to genuine questions so you may have influence in the answers.

When they are asking honest questions and taking increased ownership of their own faith, it becomes exciting to walk with them in the journey.

A key principle to remember: **Faith grows when questions are welcomed and dies when you only lecture your child.**

Remember: You will not have to have all the answers. “I do not know” can be an honest and good answer.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ — Create spiritual experiences for your children throughout their lives. Experiences are “encounters” or “participation in events.”

Think about some of the people that experienced God in the Bible. When they encountered God, it transformed their lives!

That is the God you want your children to experience! A God full of life and love and joy and power!

## QUESTIONS and EXERCISES

**Ways to live for God in your family:**

1. **Have “God conversations” within your family.**

2. **Willingly share your struggles and successes with your family.**

**Introduction:**

**CREATE** \_\_\_\_\_

Strong, healthy relationships are what you want to create in your family. Your goal is to make all your family connections strong. Culture is the “how” in creating your family relationships. Culture tells you what to make important so all the relationships can flourish.

**Four Culture Pillars:**

1. Encouragement
2. Safety
3. Relational Discipline
4. Unity

**ENCOURAGEMENT**

**Theme:** Parents \_\_\_\_\_ extravagantly and \_\_\_\_\_ carefully.

God loves for everyone, including parents, to be encouraging, faith-filled believers.

*“But encourage one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13)*

In Romans 12, Paul even elevates encouragement into a spiritual gift! When he lists the different gifts like prophecy, giving, and serving, he also includes the spiritual gift of encouragement!

*“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who encourages, in his encouragement; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:6-8)*

Encouragement is a gift from God used to bless your family and others!

## Four Key Encouragement Concepts:

### 1. You put \_\_\_\_\_ into them

Your children need to know:

- A. You claim them.
- B. You love them.
- C. You are pleased with them.

### 2. You \_\_\_\_\_ Carefully

Correction handled properly and biblically is needed and helpful in raising your children. In fact, it is essential! However, correction handled poorly is harmful to your children. Improper correction tells your children they are not worthy of God's love.

*“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage, with complete patience and careful teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)*

Paul says to “reprove, rebuke and encourage” but to do it “with complete patience and careful teaching.” It is not a question of IF you correct your children or not. You should! But every parent should learn the difference between **Careful Correction** and **Careless Correction**.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Correction** is:

- Overused —
- Harsh —
- Lecturing —

\_\_\_\_\_ **Correction** requires a different approach. Careful Correction is:

- Wisely Selective —
- Seeks Success —
- Listen, not Lecture —
- End with Relationship —

### 3. You Avoid \_\_\_\_\_

Unrestrained anger is devastating to your children.

Anger encourages:

- Fear —
- Aggression —
- Hesitancy —

*“Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.” (Psalm 37:8)*

*“A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.” (Proverbs 29:22)*

You must realize that your anger leads to evil things. Your anger places negative stuff into your children. Your anger invests things in your child which you do not want to be there.

*“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (James 1:19-20)*

How do you Correct Carefully while minimizing your anger?

- Separate \_\_\_\_\_ from **anger**.
- Find **different ways** to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Anger is a short-term fix. It may produce immediate results but is detrimental in the long-term.

**Introduction:**

**SAFETY**

**Theme:** Parents create a \_\_\_\_\_ in their family where everyone in the family feels heard and appreciated.

*“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)*

**Here are three Key Safe Haven Concepts:**

**1. You are \_\_\_\_\_ parents.**

The #1 key to creating a Safe Haven in your home is to become a **great listener**.

*“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” (James 1:19)*

**2. You are not \_\_\_\_\_ parents.**

A lecture is a dull, tedious reprimand.

When parents lecture and reprimand too often and too harshly, the following will happen:

- Children will want to distance themselves —
- Children will begin to lie —
- Children will lose confidence —

**3. You are \_\_\_\_\_ parents.**

Parenting is a long-term process.

**How to parent patiently instead of using anger:**

- Speak softly —
- Wait before you respond —
- Ask for forgiveness —

## QUESTIONS and EXERCISES

### How to listen to children at any age:

#### 1. Young Children (“Littles”)

How do you listen to your Littles?:

- A. Take the time to get on eye level with them and listen to them.
  
- B. Do not be distracted when you choose to listen to them.

Just as God hears the prayers of His children, your children deserve your listening ear more than anyone else in the world! They need to feel loved and respected like “little people” and not devalued by being ignored.

#### 2. Children who are a bit older (“Middles”)

A lecture is a long, tedious reprimand. Do you prefer to be listened to or lectured? Which leads you to be more open to receive instruction and guidance?

*“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.”* (Proverbs 18:2)  
— also known as lecturing!

Most of the time a parent has good intentions with their lectures.

When your children are in the “Middles” phase, you can create an environment which helps them listen to you. You do this by listening to them.

### Two Ways to Transition from Lecturing to Listening while still providing Good Instruction:

#### A. Understand before you instruct.

- Ask good questions. Proverbs 20:5 says, *“The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.”*

**B. Lead them to the right conclusion before you tell them the right conclusion.**

- Your children are often just like you.
  
- Types of questions to ask:
  - “What do you think was the right thing to do there?”
  
  - “What if you did this instead? What do you think would have happened?”

**3. Older Children (“Bigs”)**

You have built a trusting environment, you help them make wise decisions, and you walk with them through the consequences of bad decisions. It is a delight to watch them develop into adults!

During the “Bigs” phase, your actions will shift slightly in your parenting.

**A. You will spend more time drawing them out and building their trust.**

**B. You can still be the parent and be friends with your teenager.**

Remember, the goal is to create an environment where our teenagers voluntarily share with you and where they make wise decisions on their own. The more you use your authority to make them obey, the more they are making decisions because of your authority and less because of their own self-motivation. You should do all you can to shift them toward self-control. Listening instead of lecturing is one of the best ways to make that happen.

**Introduction:**

**DISCIPLINE**

**Theme:** Parents help our children move from parent-control of their lives to \_\_\_\_\_-control. The goal of discipline is \_\_\_\_\_.

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”*  
(Galatians 5:1)

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* (Galatians 5:13)

Freedom is not the right to do whatever you want. Freedom does not mean your children defy you or that they are free to do whatever their heart desires. Freedom is a strong desire to live life according to God’s vision for your life.

*“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these...”* (Galatians 5:19-21)

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* (Galatians 5:22-23)

You accomplish this in your family through the **Key Relational Discipline Culture Concepts**. See also **Appendix A: The Seven Discipline Drivers** to find ways to implement each Concept:

**1. Establish \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience To Parents (birth-5 years)**

You train them so you can trust them.

Your goal as a parent is to train your young children so you can trust them with small responsibilities and freedoms. You are building a desire within them to obey from their hearts.

2. **Encourage \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience To Parents (5-12 years)**

You establish a culture of willing obedience by practicing Encouragement, creating a Safe Haven, and then implementing the Seven Discipline Drivers where appropriate in your interactions with your child.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Willing Obedience To God (12 years and up)**

In this stage of parenting, your goal is to give them more freedom as they demonstrate the desire and ability to make wise decisions on their own.

See Appendix A for the **Seven Discipline Drivers** — Seven Relational Discipline principles you can implement immediately to help you and your children have self-control!

**Introduction:**

**UNITY**

**Theme:** Family unity is \_\_\_\_\_ family uniqueness as we unite under family values.

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)*

Why does God say unity is “good and pleasant?” Because when you have unity in your home, you have:

- Peace among family members
- Understanding and agreement about God’s vision for the family
- Willingness to follow leadership in the home
- An enjoyable family experience

**FOUR UNITY CULTURE CONCEPTS:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ Uniqueness in your Children**

In the Marriage Session, bringing out the best in our spouse was discussed. As the leader in your home God wants you to bring out the best in each of your uniquely created children. His best will be different for each child because He made each of them special and unique!

**Two practical ways to celebrate uniqueness in your children:**

**A. Do not compare your children to each other**

**B. Help them understand God’s vision for their lives**

**2. Celebrate Uniqueness in our \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Choose and \_\_\_\_\_ Strong Family Values**

A family value defines an important priority for your family.

**4. Your Family \_\_\_\_\_**

Your Family Values are captured in your Family Name. Imagine you have a box with your Family Name on it and in the box you placed all your Family Values. For you the box is called “The \_\_\_\_ (*insert your family name*)\_\_\_\_\_.”

Here are some examples of what it mean to be a (*insert your family name*):

You need to teach your children that life is about more than them.

You want them to discover that their best lives are when they look to the interests of others before themselves.

Looking out for others out in the world starts with looking out for others in the family.

# JOURNEY TO A GODLY FAMILY — Summary

**You did it!** Your family has new hope and a new vision because of your investment in these ten sessions. And they are yours to keep for life! We recommend you and your spouse review this material each year to allow these God-inspired concepts to continue to deepen in your family. Each time you go back through the workbook you will:

1. See how your family is loving Jesus and loving each other more and more!
2. Allow God to speak to your heart about family in new ways with new insights!
3. Love and appreciate your family more and more!

You will be building and investing in your family for many years to come. These concepts are not something learned instantly but rather are established over time in our hearts as we learn and apply them throughout the family-building years. Let's begin where we started.

## Relationships

The first key word is “relationships.” God’s vision for your family is all about relationships, first with Him and then with each other.

### God’s vision for your family

1. Everyone in your family has an intimate relationship with Jesus.
2. Everyone in your family has great relationships with all other family members.
3. Your family is a light to the world to help you Reach Your Lost World.

**Family Vision:** The strength of your family will be determined by the strength of your family relationships.

**Family Mission:** Your family mission should be to build a family where everyone in the family loves Jesus intimately and loves each other deeply. The goal of family is to make every one those relationships lines strong!

## Culture

The second key word is “culture.” When you create a life-giving culture in your home with strong God-inspired values, you create an environment where the relationships in your home can flourish! When your field is cultivated well, the plants can grow healthy. Your culture in your home is like that well-cultivated field but instead of plants, it is relationships which are growing healthy!

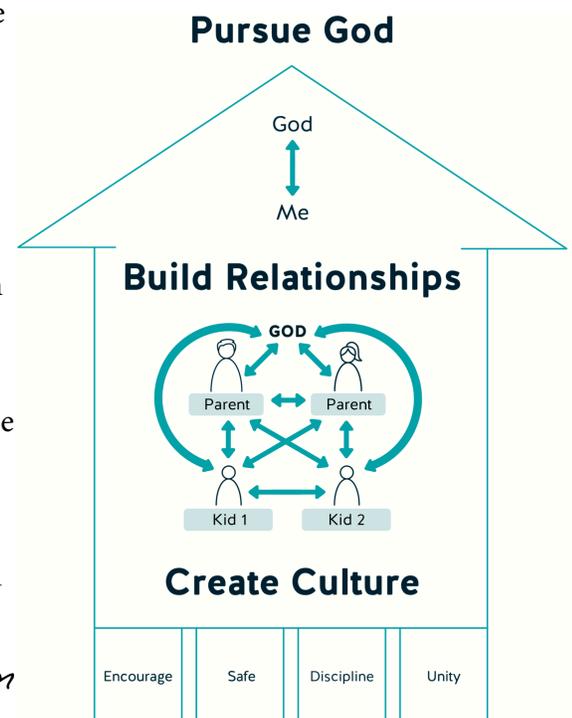
Remember Your Three Commitments House!

Everything you need to remember about this manual is right there! Remember when you drew your own family in the Build Relationships section? Get that out and review it now! Look at all the relationships in your home.

Finally, be encouraged! You have been chosen — hand-picked — by God to lead your home. He loves you, He believes in you, and He will be with you every step of the way. Have faith that God will use you in amazing ways to build a family who loves Jesus and loves each other!

May God continue to bless you as you continue your *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD!*

*The Strategic Impact and Crazy Cool Family Team*



**SEVEN DISCIPLINE DRIVERS:**

1. Think Before You Act
2. Ask Forgiveness
3. Act Like the Parent, Not the Child
4. See Things Through the Eyes of Your Child
5. Consider Natural Consequences
6. Life is in “The Why”
7. Let Them Make Mistakes

**1. Think Before You Act** (Get past your First response to get to the Best response)

- Your first reaction to a negative situation are usually negative. Learn to overcome your first response and think and pray about the best response.
- The key is to take the time necessary to get past your first response and get to the best response.

**2. Ask Forgiveness** (Real people make real mistakes and ask for real forgiveness)

- You want to develop in your children a soft heart toward you. Hardness of heart creates more resistance to your leadership in their lives. Having a genuine connection — their soft heart toward you and your soft heart toward them — makes leading them so much easier.
- When you confess your wrongs and find mercy with your child as the verse in Proverbs says, it softens your child’s hearts toward you. Asking forgiveness is an important gateway to their hearts.

**3. Act Like the Parent, Not the Child** (We need to be challenged to act like the leader)

- This Driver is about spiritual maturity. God hand-picked YOU to be the leader of your family. If you exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in your home (Galatians 5:22-23), your family will be more likely to do so as well. Remember, your **example** is more important than your **instruction**. The power of the Holy Spirit is with you to be a leader in your family!

**4. See Life Through the Eyes of the Child** (Seek to understand their motive)

- The world looks very different to children of all ages than it does to an adult. Children do things for a reason. You must see things from their perspective to understand their motive.

*“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3-4)*

- When you understand how your children think, you will be better able to lead them to obey you.

## **5. Consider Natural Consequences**

- When your children make poor choices, there are often natural negative consequences which occur as a result of the poor choice. Instead of adding to these consequences, use the opportunities to come alongside your children and help them to see the connection between the choice they made and the negative natural consequences which occurred, then teach them how to avoid these consequences in the future.

## **6. Life is in “The Why” (Laying a Foundation of Life Information)**

- At every age, your children are laying a foundation of life information that shapes their personal belief systems. They ask “Why?” at every age in order to gain understanding about their world. Encourage them to continue to ask “Why?” and share with them why you do things so they understand the reasons behind your actions. This should help them establish reasons for their own actions. Use these “Why?” questions to build their belief systems in the ways of God. Explaining the “Why?” equips your children to make wise choices in life.

## **7. Let Them Make Mistakes**

- Mistakes and failures (even discipline issues like tantrums and rebellion) are a natural part of every child’s life. When you give your children freedom to make mistakes and view these mistakes as opportunities to connect with and teach them, you will build new ways of thinking in your children to help them avoid repeating these same mistakes in the future.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## **GOD**

*Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24, 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes.

## **JESUS CHRIST**

*Matthew 20:28; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; 1 John 2:2*

Jesus Christ is the eternal second Person of the Trinity who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for (made a payment for) the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation and eternal life for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT and THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

*John 15:26, 16:8-11*

The natural accompaniment of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life of holiness and obedience, attained by believers as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them (gives them new life). At the point of salvation He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength and wisdom, and He uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building up of the body. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Bible. His power and control are applied by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christlike character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

## **THE BIBLE**

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21*

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe that the Bible in its entirety originated with God, and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men. The Bible thus one and at the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Bible is infallible and without error in the original manuscripts. They are the unique, full, and final authority on all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God.

## **SALVATION**

*Romans 3:23; 5:8; Ephesians 2:1, 8-9*

The central purpose of God's revelation in the Bible is to call all people into fellowship with Himself. Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied God, choosing to go his independent way, and was thus alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall of man took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God. The salvation of mankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part of human works or goodness, and must be received by faith on an individual basis. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in the Bible that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation.

## **HUMAN DESTINY**

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 9:27*

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world, and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. There is an eternal state of punishment for the unsaved and an eternal state of blessing for the saved. Those who have trusted Christ will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in life.

## **THE CHURCH**

*Acts 2:42; Romans 12:1-6*

The result of union with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members of His body, the church. There is one true church universal, comprised of all those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Bible commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the church. Under the watch care of elders and other supportive leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent upon the ultimate purpose of exalting Christ for the glory of God and the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission.

## **FAITH and PRACTICE**

*1 Corinthians 10:24, 31; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

The Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We recognize that it cannot bind the conscience of individuals in areas where the Bible is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.



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