

REAL FAMILY

REAL FAMILY – Study Guide

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By Tara Franco

Parents have a unique opportunity and responsibility to raise children to adulthood. Whether you have children in your home or not, the responsibility still exists to pass on to others the knowledge and love of Jesus. God gives each of us opportunities to influence others on a daily basis. The same Biblical truths apply to both teaching children and guiding others, as you live a life that points others to Jesus.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) This weekend, we heard the phrase “caught not taught” when referring to the manner in which we often pass along our faith. Think about your week thus far. Has anyone “caught” you in your faith? Talk about some moments when you have sensed God’s presence and voice guiding you through a conversation or activity. Perhaps it was with one of your own children, with a co-worker, or with a friend who needs Christ.

Have there been any missed opportunities for you; times when you sensed the Holy Spirit leading you to talk with your child or a friend or co-worker, and you were “too busy” or ignored His prompting?

- 2) What are your children and the people you interact with learning from you?

Into the Bible

- 3) Titus 2:7-8a (NIV 1984) says, “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned...” So, whether in your parenting or influencing others, list some ways that you can:

a. Show integrity. Read Proverbs 11:13, 10:9, and 2 Corinthians 1:12.

b. Show seriousness. Read 2 Corinthians 1:17 and Matthew 5:33-37.

c. Show soundness of speech. Read Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 12:17; Proverbs 15:1; and Colossians 3:9 and 21.

- 4) **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Matthew 5:38-48.** Discuss the practical usefulness of God's Word in the training of children. Use the passage in Matthew as a very practical example.
- 5) **Read James 1:2-4.** Discuss with your group what it means to consider trials as pure joy. If you've ever experienced this, share it with the group. If you are a parent and you've been able to model this for your child or children, please share how the Lord gave you that opportunity.

How Does This Apply?

- 6) Brett Gray taught from **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** and said in his message this week, "When I love God with all that I have, I love my wife better." Often, when our relationship with the Lord is right, other things in our lives simply seem to be right. List some things you do **better** when your relationship is right with God?
- 7) Your family has an identity, whether you were intentional about establishing it or not. Is this identity the one you want your family to have in the end? As you tune into the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, what steps can you take this week and in the months and years to come, to begin to create the family identity that will ultimately influence the generations that follow for the Kingdom of God?
- 8) God does not promise us a struggle-free life. Our responses to these struggles are being watched by our children—and in fact, are watched by all those around us. Life can be like a white water rafting experience—guided, yet still terrifying and exciting. How has God guided you through a struggle (maybe terrifying and/or exciting) and used it for His glory?

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

As a believer, you must live out your faith as an example to those around you. It is impossible to give away something that you don't possess. Authenticity as well as the absence of authenticity is easy to spot. Children—and non-believers—are looking for the real deal. If you say you are a Christ-follower, show God's love, be generous, and be a blessing to others. Your children will desire to have a relationship with Jesus when they experience the awesome work of the Lord in your life on a daily basis.

Take some time this week and dig into Titus 2:1-6. Pray about the things God would want you to instill in the lives of your children (or in the lives of those around you). Pray for opportunities to be "caught" in your faith!