

# Family Discipleship - Moments

REVIEW: Good morning! As you know we have been studying through the idea of discipleship - what it is, what it is not, what it looks like. In the last few weeks in particular we have been focusing on family discipleship. How can you, dad and mom, do this thing called discipleship when you have a list as long as your arm of things you have to do for work, for school, for the kids, being a good parent, and still disciple your children.

One of the first things we focused on was the fact that you are discipling your kids in something. They are learning things, they are learning what is most important to your heart. Which is why it becomes so important to be intentional about discipling our children and the people around us in faith.

We have been studying from Deuteronomy 6 and have seen three rings that move out from the center. The center is the most important. Without the center, the rest of this all falls apart. At the center is you dad, is you mom - it is your faith and that you love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength. Then it moves to the family. What we have seen is that this is another case of the Bible saying, "while you are already doing what you are doing." It is not trying to add more to life, just encourage you that as life is happening, so is conversation about our love for the Lord and how that is coming out in life.

Last week we looked at how we needed to be intentional in doing so. There does need to be some time in our lives in which we open God's Word and see how that applies to our lives. This time needs to be marked by four things. It should be consistent - not every Tuesday at 6, but a regular time carved out of the family schedule to talk about how the gospel applies to our lives. The time should have clarity - talk about spiritual things in a way your kids can understand. Our time should be creative - make it a joyful time - build a fortress with your kids, find ways to help them connect to the story that make it fun. Finally we talked about counsel - how we are looking to create a simple sheet about what was talked about in children's church so you can hit the home run with your kids. You will look like the brilliant parent about what they learned just by asking a few questions to remind them.

INTRO: Today we are talking about moments. Moments are simply capturing those teachable moments in the course of the day, or everyday life. This is what Deuteronomy is talking about - when you lie down or as you are going, as you do life, use those moments to point kids to Christ.

- I. The master of moments was undeniably Jesus Christ
  - A. Luke 21 is a continuation of Jesus being in the Temple
    1. The very beginning of the chapter it tells us that Jesus is sitting in the Temple just people watching

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- a) Who likes to people watch?
  - b) I love it - you can find out so much about people just sitting and observing
  2. So Jesus observes rich folks putting in their money to the Temple treasury
  3. Then a widow comes along and puts in two small copper coins
  4. Jesus turns to his disciples and says, "This widow put in more than all the rest because she gave out of what she did not have."
  5. Jesus is using an everyday, ordinary occurrence to teach a lesson about the heart that God desires in us
  - B. How many of you have multiple kids - have those multiple kids at any time this month, or even this week - gotten into an argument?
    1. Most of us know that the disciples used to argue about who would be the greatest in the kingdom
    2. James and John crank this argument up a notch and come and ask Jesus if they can be the ones to sit at His right and left in the kingdom
      - a) Can you imagine the arrogance!
      - b) James and John - the brothers, think they should be the greatest
        - (1) Maybe they agreed rather than arguing with each other they should just ask Jesus for the special places
        - (2) Maybe they couldn't agree so they would let Jesus decide
      - c) When the others hear about this they flip out
      - d) But Jesus uses this as another teachable moment
        - (1) The Gentiles lord their authority over others
        - (2) Not you guys, if you want greatness, be a servant
    3. Jesus was a master teacher like this
  - C. If you are thinking, "Wait, that's unfair - this is Jesus we are talking about. Of course He is good at teaching like that!"
    1. Remember what I try to drill into you over and over again
    2. The Holy Spirit was given to you, living in you for the purpose of conforming you to be like Christ
      - a) So that means watch the Master
      - b) See how He does what He does
      - c) Learn from Jesus in even these small ways
  - D. Jesus did this over and over again
    1. Your assignment is to read Luke 13:1-5 - see how Jesus used current events to teach
- II. This morning as we talk about moments, I want to talk about three things that are key for these moments: being observant, being prepared, and being genuine

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- A. If you are single, or have no kids, or your kids are grown, don't check out on the message
  - 1. This is just a means for engaging anyone to help talk about the gospel, and strengthen the whole church family
  - 2. So singles, no kids, you can do this too, with kids in the church, with other adults - this is a skill set that each of us can learn (be observant, be prepared, and be genuine)
- B. So let's start with being observant
  - 1. If you are a parent here, especially of multiple kids, you have this skill honed for certain purposes
    - a) It does not take long for you as parents to figure out the disposition of your children
    - b) I'll use the Kyte family as my example here:
      - (1) No doubt dad and mom understood some things about Aylin while she was an only child
      - (2) Then San came along, and they began observing more
      - (3) Then Deniz came along and you really start to see differences between the kids
        - (a) One kid is very compliant and doesn't like dad and mom getting upset so they obey easily
        - (b) One kid rocks the boat and blames it on the baby of the family
        - (c) One kid is the little rebellious child that tries to get away with bloody murder
      - (4) For some of us that have been around the Kyte family, we can guess which child filled which role
  - 2. So you have the skills of observation, but this also helps you know how to engage your child
  - 3. Under this area, here is a key to parenting well: love the kid you have, not the kid you want
    - a) It is a horrible thing when a parent wanted an athlete and either pushes them at athletics when the kid hates it, or does not engage their child because they are not athletic
    - b) Love the kid you have, not the one you wanted - you wanted a perfect child that always obeys - so did every parent in America
      - (1) Love the kid God gave you, not the one you wanted
  - 4. What do you need to be observing or paying attention to in your kids
    - a) The first thing would be sensitivity levels
      - (1) I had been told by a parent in our church that one of their kids was sensitive to things in media (violence, mean, evil people, etc)

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- (2) I went to a parent one time to tell them about a section of video that would be played in the service because I knew of this sensitivity
- (3) I was a sensitive kid like that
  - (a) There was a mini series on when I was a kid about WWII and the holocaust
  - (b) There was a scene in this TV movie where they took a Jewish man into another room and whipped him - you couldn't see it, but you could here the whip and hear him scream
  - (c) I had nightmares for weeks after
  - (d) Shoot, we watched a movie in church, and a family in the car, dad mom, kids, family dog got in an accident
    - i) The family I think was okay
    - ii) But you know what I was worried about - crying to my dad - what happened to the dog!
- (4) If you are going to take advantage of those moments you need to know about the sensitivity level in people/kids
- b) You need to pay attention to their relationship with others
  - (1) Every age group has relational drama
    - (a) I'm 45 and still have relational drama
    - (b) That is because when you take one sinner, place them in relationship with another sinner, there will be drama
  - (2) We need to watch how they relate to others
- c) You also need to pay attention to how they relate to themselves
  - (1) One kid may be very hard on their self - a perfectionist
  - (2) One kid may lack motivation
  - (3) If you treat the perfectionist like they have no motivation, you are liable to mess them up
    - (a) They may feel like they are not measuring up
    - (b) Even if you are proud of them, THEY may feel like they didn't do well enough
    - (c) And by the way, in this scenario, you are also teaching the kid they have to earn your love
  - (4) Know how your kid relates to themselves
- d) And for those without kids, this all fits even in the context of the Christian life
  - (1) We are observant when we see people drifting from Christ
  - (2) I swear to you that people think I am crazy when I ask someone if so and so is doing okay because I sense a drift in them

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- (3) We have to train ourselves to be observant even for our brothers and sisters in Christ - not just the kids
- C. The second thing is being prepared
  1. If the goal is to observe, like Jesus did - He observed and then He engaged with purpose - we have to be prepared
  2. How do we prepare?
    - a) We have to know a couple of things: first we have to know something of the attributes of God
      - (1) Who is God? What is He like?
      - (2) Well, God is wise, He is generous, He is loving, good, unchanging, Creator, Holy, Just, faithful, provider, merciful, attentive, sovereign, almighty, compassionate, glorious, worthy, refuge, and deliverer
      - (3) Just to name a few
      - (4) And if you want those in an easy format to use, to refer to, it is in the handout we gave you, and have in the back
    - b) Knowing even a few of the attributes of God can help you when your kid faces:
      - (1) Anxiety - God is good, He is our refuge
      - (2) Fearful - God is in control, He is sovereign
      - (3) When they come face to face with their sin - God is merciful, compassionate
    - c) When you know what God is like, you can observe, and then apply God's attributes to a situation in your child's life
      - (1) What you are doing is helping to produce godly character
      - (2) You are shaping your child by the gospel
- D. The third thing is being genuine
  1. In being genuine, especially parents, you can't seek to control your kids using the Bible and religion
    - a) God never said "Control your kids"
    - b) He did talk a lot about training your children
    - c) It is a dangerous thing to use the Bible as a club
      - (1) Beating people in line is not the goal
      - (2) Heart change is the goal - love of the Lord is the goal
      - (3) A heart that is captured in love by Christ has no problems conforming to God's standards revealed in the Bible
  2. No matter how much you have to discipline your children, what your kids should know is that you know them, and that you love them
    - a) This is true for us as brothers and sisters in the church

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- b) When a person understanding that they are known and loved, there is a genuine relationship there
- c) And when someone needs to discipline or call someone out on things, most of the time it will make a relationship stronger because your love for a person has been proven
- d) So let's do this: I got a phone call from a friend in the church asking all kinds of questions about life and ministry and how things were going
  - (1) The questions were challenging and the majority of what was discussed caused me to have to evaluate things in life and ministry and see how what changes might need to come
    - (a) Quite frankly, I didn't really want to hear it at the time
    - (b) But, in the end, because I knew they know me pretty well, I knew they loved and cared for me, I didn't just throw down the phone in disgust and think I was never going to talk with them again
      - i) Because there were things that I did not agree with them on then
      - ii) And I still don't agree after stepping back from the emotions of the conversation for evaluation
  - (2) Here is the point, if there was not a genuineness about our relationship, that conversation would not have happened
    - (a) They would not have felt the compulsion to have the conversation in the first place
    - (b) Nor would the relationship remain in tacked to this day
  - (3) If your kids, or your brothers and sisters in Christ do not know that they are known and cared and loved, finding the moments to say difficult things become virtually impossible
  - (4) This is what being genuine looks like

## III. What discipleship moments look like in real life

- A. Paul David Tripp has a quote which I will condense here. He says, "In His wisdom, God has crafted a life for us that does not careen from huge, consequential moment to huge, consequential moment. In fact, if you examine your life, you will see that you have actually had few of those moments. You can probably name only two of three life-changing situations you have lived through. We are all the same; the character and quality of our life is forged in little moments..."
- B. "...we tend to back away from the significance of these little moments because they are little moments. You see, the opposite is true: little moments are significant because they are little moments. These are the

# Family Discipleship - Moments

moments that make up our lives, set up our future, and shape our relationships.”

1. Do you not find that to be true?
2. It is the little moments of life that forge so much
3. As I look at the kids in the youth group, I can tell you little moments, some stupid, some weird, some fun, some serious that forged the relationship, that forged their character
4. When you look at life, it is the small moments of life that forge your character and who you are
  - a) In fact, what is forged in the small moments is what comes out in the big moments
  - b) The big moments show who you are while the small moments forge who you are
- C. Let me give you one illustration to help you connect the moments we are talking about with real life
  1. We will do this with the old TV show *Full House*
  2. Many of us grew up with full house and thanks to TVland, and other channels like that, *Full House* has spanned generations
    - a) We all love our Tanner family
  3. What happened in almost every show was the setup, the crisis, and the resolution
    - a) The crisis was often some problem that related to life, and in some way would help the character development of Uncle Jesse, or Michelle, or Stephanie, or DJ
    - b) They would fall into some problem, or mishandle a situation and then have to come to grips with the problem and ask for help or forgiveness
    - c) That would be the time of the resolution
      - (1) The cheesy violin music would start up
      - (2) And at that moment you would know that the moral of the story was headed your way
        - (a) Something that is less and less true in today's shows
        - (b) Teaching morality is getting to be a negative thing because who are you to tell anyone what they should and should not believe
  4. And now back to the show: *Full House* built its entire series on moments
    - a) The small moments of life
    - b) And those moments helped to teach the characters something
  5. This is what we are talking about for you dad and mom

# Family Discipleship - Moments

- a) Use those moments to teach your kids about Christ, and about the gospel
  - b) Those moments where you need to apologize to your kids, use that moment to point to the gospel - that even dads and moms need forgiveness, and it's great that when we need forgiveness God is always right there to pick us back up
  - c) Dads and moms are not perfect and that's okay because the gospel does not require perfection - it only requires a humble heart to ask forgiveness
- D. Take those moments dads and moms
- 1. Use them to point your kids to Christ
  - 2. Use them to point them to the character of God
  - 3. Use them to help instill godliness into your kids
  - 4. All of this is in the handout on pages 20-27
    - a) There is even more than what we have talked about here
    - b) Grab that handout - use it as a guide to help you disciple your kids
    - c) And if you are single or have no kids at home, grab it too
      - (1) The principles are transferable to relationships with other adults
      - (2) Use it to help guide kids in the church, or the teens
- E. The point is, leverage those moments for God's glory, and for the furtherance of godliness of those whose lives, God has given you influence