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Family



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

17 & 18 SEP 2022

“FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION”

2 TIMOTHY 1.3-7, 14

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

4. Some of us might never have had a Paul to guide us. But this does not mean we can never become a Paul to a younger believer. Consider:

- a) What qualifies us to be a spiritual mentor (e.g., a living relationship with God)?
- b) What specific skills can we learn to enable us to mentor the next generation (e.g., active listening, asking “soul-connecting” questions)?
- c) What attitudes and conduct should we avoid (e.g., as parents of youths and grown children, do we tend to be judgemental about choices concerning education, work, lifestyle and friends without really taking efforts to truly listen? Do we as parents, practice what we preach - do we really prioritise time with God and family over school, work and our social lives)?

List down as many items in each category as possible, and decide as a group on the three most important ones.

5. In v14, Paul speaks about the good treasure/deposit (of the gospel) that has been entrusted to us by the Spirit and through human participation. God’s intention was for our godly natural and/or spiritual parents to impart this treasure to us as they live out the reality of God’s good news.

- a) As an act of thanksgiving, share with each other one such treasure you have received that could be used for God’s mission in BRMC, Singapore, and beyond
- b) As an act of honouring, write a letter or send a text to someone today to express your gratitude for their good deposit in your life
- c) As an act of offering, pray that God will show someone whom you can impart gospel treasures to—in the months and years ahead

Prayer Items

6. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.

Further Reflections

How can parents respond well toward their children – whether biological or spiritual – when those children do not seem to be walking closely with God despite the parents' best efforts?

1. Realise that **you, parent, are not alone**. Both Old and New Testaments portray our heavenly Father as experiencing fraught relationships with his children (see Hosea 11.1-9 and Luke 15.11-32). Your struggles are neither strange nor shameful. Don't lose heart, for God himself is present with you.
2. Recognise that a parent's role is to **guide, support, encourage, and model**. Yet ultimately, each biological or spiritual child is responsible for making their own choices and decisions (Ezekiel chap.18; Jeremiah 31.29-33).
3. Remind your biological or spiritual child that God is like the father in Luke 15.11-32, ever watching and waiting for his far-off children to return home. Our gracious and loving God welcomes all repentant children home – with open arms.
4. Remain present and available for them. Consider again, the attitudes and actions of our heavenly Father as described in Hosea 11 and Luke 15.
5. Remember to continue **praying** for your biological or spiritual child.