

# Discovery Group - Gospel Living

## Managing the Home

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: 1 Timothy 3:4-5

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

Today we are going to take time for personal reflection. Instead of a group discussion, use this time to write out thoughts for managing your family according to God's plan. If you are not yet in a position to manage a family, you can still do this exercise. Just think about the family you will one day create. On what values will you build your family? If you are an older person, consider how you can use your experience and wisdom to help the younger generation in these important matters. Do this exercise however it will be most helpful to you: Brainstorm a list or just begin writing out your thoughts or develop a few practical steps.

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Continue to work on your plan for managing your household.

## Managing the Home

Over the course of a number of studies now, we have had significant discussions about family. In our passage today, Paul instructs Timothy to look for leaders for the church who “manage [their] own family well.” As you consider what it means to do this, let’s summarize some of the conclusions from past studies.

- (1) Each family member has a specific role to play in the family, and that role is based on the concept of *submission*. Even those in authority (such as parents) find ways to submit by putting the good of others before themselves.
- (2) Marriages consisting of a man and a woman are the only appropriate and God-ordained context for sexual intimacy.
- (3) Godly marriages call for wives to submit to and respect their husbands and for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
- (4) Parents have a mandate from the Lord to train their children to know and follow Jesus. They do this with intentionality, providing ordered learning in the ways of Jesus. They also do this by looking for life situations that bring powerful teaching moments. Immersing children in God’s Word and training them in obedience are keys in this process.
- (5) Parents need to avoid both permissiveness and authoritarianism in disciplining and training their children.
- (6) Families need to exist within the wider context of a local church - a true family of families. In this setting, older men and women help train and encourage younger ones in how to cultivate healthy marriages and raise godly children.
- (7) Family has a missional purpose. It does not exist simply for personal fulfillment (romantic, relational, sexual, emotional, practical, etc). It is meant to reveal God to the world and to lead people to Him. Families are to be oriented around the mission of Jesus, practicing outreach and hospitality so that lost people can experience the life of God and know what He is like.

Having churches that consist of strong, godly families is a central part of God’s plan for revealing Himself to the world. It is very important, then, that we make the effort to build families that reflect His character and values.