

Family Discipleship

Families as an ideal environment for the
reproduction of disciples

There are two distinct lifestyles in Scripture

- #1 - The Single, One-dimensional Narrative.
 - “An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord’s work and thinking how to please him...In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit.” -1 Corinthians 7:32-33
 - The simple, undistracted, fully-devoted life
- #2 - The Family, Multifaceted Narrative
 - The stable, complicated, reproductive life

The Mission of the Family

- Be Fruitful and Multiply - Genesis 1
- Fill the Earth and Subdue It - Genesis 1
- Scratch a Living from the Earth - Genesis 3
- Make Disciples of all Nations - Matthew 28
- Steward Spiritual Gifts - 1 Corinthians 12

Reproduction is the most powerful tool/weapon uniquely given to the family to accomplish its mission

Our Story

7 Things We Learned About Family from the Torah

1. Families are valued above the individual
2. A Family is a multi-generational team
3. Families have a God-given mission
4. Family members have pre-defined God-given roles
5. Families must secure, expand and steward assets
6. Families must develop and observe identity-shaping traditions
7. Families must work to expand the family in each generation through multiplying and training children

How Families Reproduce Disciples

Defining Terms

- Discipleship is the apprenticeship process that brings a believer into spiritual maturity.
- Spiritual maturity is achieved when a disciple reproduces after his or her kind.
- Household (Oikos): The smallest local expression of the church that consists of the disciple-making rhythms of a spiritually mature family.

Where is the Family in the New Testament?

- If you were to read the New Testament looking for narratives of family what would you find?
- Remember they used the Old Testament as their teaching curriculum.
- The Man of Peace - Luke 10
- The Oikos - Throughout Acts + end of Epistles
- The Elder - 1 Timothy 3, Titus 2

An Age of Orphans

- Healthy families naturally reproduce unless they've been sterilized
- Work transferred from the family to the corporation, fun from the family to the media, education from the family to the school system, protection and provision from the family to the government, and spiritual life from the family to the local church.
- We've forgotten how to be a family
- Most Christians today are raised by programs not apprenticed by spiritual parents
- Every family must become the hub of a disciple-making ministry

How Families Make Disciples

- Start with a healthy family
- Dedicate a large amount of time to the raising spiritual children
- Open the family and adopt spiritual orphans
- Establish regular spiritual rhythms (Acts 2:42)
- Receive balanced equipping (Ephesians 4)
- Develop deep, holistic, apprenticing relationships with those you disciple

Rhythms of a Disciple- Making Family

- Daily Rhythms - Family Time
- Weekly Rhythms - The Family Meal, Prayer Gatherings, Teaching
- Monthly Rhythms - Team Meeting
- Annual Rhythms - Festivals
- Generational Rhythms - Summits, Coming of Age, Weddings, Births

Questions for Crossroads

- Do we go to Crossroads to do ministry and go home to get our needs met?
- Which programs support disciple-making and which ones replace it?
- Are we willing to invest the long-term resources needed to develop spiritual parents for Cincinnati's spiritual orphan population?