

FAMILY FRAMEWORK

LIFEGROUP STUDY



HOW TO USE THIS COMPANION LIFEGROUP STUDY THE LIFEPOINT FAMILY FRAMEWORK

Lifegroup Leader,

We're so glad that your group will be utilizing the *Lifepoint Family Framework* and this companion Lifegroup Study. The Lifepoint Family Framework is a key resource designed by our team to help parents understand their Biblical role and to equip families to establish an intentional rhythm of discipleship in the home. This companion Lifegroup Study is designed to foster discussion and application of the framework's principles, while cultivating support and encouragement amongst the families in your Lifegroup.

Our prayer is that God would use His Word and these resources to not only equip parents, but to draw the families in your group closer to Him and to one another.

I. GROUP STARTERS

Every week this guide will provide *Group Starters* to help initiate group participation and discussion. These *Group Starters* might be general questions that relate to the topic for the current week or could provide opportunities for members to share how they applied the *Take Action* section from the previous week.

Please Note: It is important for the group leader to set the expectation each week that the meeting time will be spent as a group discussion. This guide is intended to help the group leader facilitate discussion rather than teach a lesson.

After the *Group Starters* section, there is an option for the group to read through the applicable portion of the Lifepoint Family Framework for that week, however, it is recommended that your group read those portions ahead of your group time.

II. IN THE WORD

Central to the Lifepoint Family Framework are key biblical passages and principles. It will be necessary for your group members to have a Bible or Bible App in order to participate in the *In The Word* section of the group study each week.

This portion of the study will highlight biblical passages that link to that week's portion of the Family Framework. We suggest you read these passages and answer any provided questions together as a group.

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The provided *Discussion Questions* are intended to help your group to share, discuss, and learn together as you navigate through the principles of the Lifepoint Family Framework.

Leader Tip: Don't feel obligated to use the questions in their provided order. Have freedom to read your group, ask the questions that are most applicable at the moment, and to ask your own follow up questions that will help your group best share, discuss, and learn together.

IV. TAKE ACTION

After each week's discussion the *Take Action* section will provide opportunities for parents to apply the principles for that week. This is the most important portion of the study because it provides parents with steps for practical application of the Lifepoint Family Framework.

Be sure to inform group members that during the beginning of your group time next week they may be asked to share how they took action after the previous week's group time.

The *Take Action* section will also provide a recommended reading for the next week.

Before your first meeting encourage your group to read the following ahead of time:

- The "Introduction" & "Parents" sections of the Lifepoint Family Framework



WEEK 1

WEEK 1: PARENTS

I. GROUP STARTERS

Other than the obvious physical needs (providing shelter, clothes, food, etc.), what would you consider to be the most important responsibilities of a parent?

How do you think the culture around us defines the role of a parent?

If your group has not already read the “Introduction” and “Parents” sections of the Lifepoint Family Framework, read those sections together as a group now.

II. IN THE WORD

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 together as a group.

What place do you think the Bible should have in our understanding of the role of a parent?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 as a group. What kinds of things are parents asked to do in this passage?

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How is the Bible’s definition of the calling of a parent different than how the culture around us defines the role of a parent?

What do you think it means for a parent to be the primary spiritual influencer and trainer in their child’s life? What does it look like for a parent to be this for their child?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together as a group. How does this passage relate to the statement in the Framework that only Jesus Christ can “change your heart and our kids’ hearts in order to know and love God in the way that He wants us to know Him”? Why is this important to remember as a parent?

What is the ultimate hope for a disciple of Jesus (pg. 6 of the Family Framework)? How does the ultimate hope of a disciple relate to what our ultimate hopes for our families should be?

Re-read George Barna’s statement on the Biblical understanding of “the good life” (on pg. 6 of the Family Framework). How is does this view differ from cultural ideals of “the good life”? Why is this principle important for us to remember as we train and influence our kids?

What benefits are there to having an intentional, family rhythm of discipleship? How could this kind of family rhythm aid you in your role as the primary faith trainer and influencer in your child’s life?

IV. TAKE ACTION

In light of your God-given calling, sit down this week and write out three long-term hopes you have for your child(ren). Be prepared to share at least one of those next week!

Spend some time in prayer for your family this week. Ask God what His hopes and desires for your family are. Spend time listening to what He might impress on your heart.

It is not God's design for parents to fulfill their calling in isolation but alongside other disciples. What are some practical ways our Lifegroup can help, encourage, and support each other in our role as parents?

Ahead of next week, read the "Modeling" portion of the Lifepoint Family Framework.



WEEK 2

WEEK 2: MODELING

I. GROUP STARTERS

From last week: Share one of the long-term hopes you have for your child(ren).

What role, if any, did faith play in your family growing up? How do you think that impacted you as a child? In what ways do you think that impacts you now?

If your group has not already read the “Modeling” section of the Lifepoint Family Framework, read that section together as a group now.

II. IN THE WORD

Have different group members read the following passages. As you read, highlight ways each passage displays Jesus as our perfect model.

Luke 2:52 He grew in wisdom

Luke 5:16 He prayed

John 13:3-5 He served

Hebrews 4:14-16 He was tempted, but did not sin

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why is it important for parents to model discipleship for their kids?

If we attend church and talk about our faith, yet never model personal discipleship for our kids how could that undermine our calling to be the primary faith influencer and trainer in our kids' lives?

Share a time or situation in which you were able to model Christ-likeness for your child. Share a time where you failed to reflect Christ. Looking back now, what would have you done differently?

The Framework states that a disciple of Jesus learns from Jesus, lives like Jesus, and teaches others to learn from and live like Jesus:

How can we model learning from Jesus for our kids? Living like Jesus? And teaching others to learn from and live like Jesus?

Jesus himself was a learner (cf. Luke 2:52). Why is it important to always be learning and growing in regards to our discipleship? How can that make us a better influencer and trainer in our kids' lives?

Share about somebody that has modeled discipleship for you. How has their example impacted your walk as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

What are the benefits of having other Christian influencers in our kids' lives? What kind of person do you want having influence on your child for Christ?

IV. TAKE ACTION

What is a next step you need to take to learn and grow as a disciple of Jesus over the next month? What action step are you going to take in order to do that?

As you spend time in prayer this week, ask God to graciously show you those areas you need to be more like Christ. Ask Him to continue to transform your heart and mind in those areas.

When your child is an adult and someone asks them, "What role, if any, did faith play in your family growing up? How did that impact you as a child? In what ways does that impact you now?" ... what do you hope they say?

Ahead of next week, read the "Meeting" portion of the Lifepoint Family Framework.



WEEK 3

WEEK 3: MEETING

I. SECTION INTRODUCTION

What kinds of things (topics or interests) did your family talk about growing up? Why do you think that was?

If your group has not already read the “Meeting” section of the Lifepoint Family Framework, read that section together as a group now.

II. IN THE WORD

Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25 as a group.

In verses 24 and 25, what are the motivations behind Israelite parents teaching their children God’s Word?

This passage encourages Israelite parents to teach and remind their children of what God has done for them (God was fulfilling His promises to the Israelites). Share something that God has done for you. How might you share what God has done for you with your kids?

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Based on the Framework’s section on meeting, how would you describe what a weekly meeting for your family would look like? What do you think are necessary components of a weekly meeting?

Think back to Deuteronomy 6:4-9. How will setting aside a weekly time to meet help you train and influence your children to know and love God?

Many parents consider spiritual conversations with their children to be intimidating or awkward. What fears do you have when it comes to meeting?

As a group, brainstorm some ideas and resources for family meetings.

Based on the ages of your children, what do you think are realistic expectations of a family meeting time?

What are ways you can give different members of the family (including the kids) ownership of different aspects of the meeting?

How can having a weekly meeting help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

What are possible challenges that could arise as you try to meet as a family? What are healthy ways you can respond to these challenges?

If our Lifegroup were to do a combined meeting, what elements would we incorporate into that time together? **Consider your group planning and schedule a Lifegroup Family Meeting Night!*

IV. TAKE ACTION

Plan and schedule a meeting with your family this week. What will you do during that meeting? Here are some details to consider:

- When will you meet?
- Where will you meet?
- How long will you meet? (Consider age of children)
- What will you do when you meet?
- What kind of Bible might you use?
- Use a Bible that is age-appropriate for your child(ren)
- What other resource might you use?

Remember: Meeting is about being faithful to your role to train and influence, not to control. Meeting consistently will help kids understand the value of God's Word even though they may not remember every thing you say. Have realistic expectations and be ok with some chaos. With that said... be ready to share about your meeting next week!

Spend time this week praying for your kids. Pray and ask God to put a desire for Him and His Word in their hearts.

Ahead of next week, read the "Moments", "Milestones", and "Your Family Rhythm" portions of the Lifepoint Family Framework.



WEEK 4

WEEK 4: MOMENTS & MILESTONES

I. GROUP STARTERS

From last week: Share about your meeting from this past week. When did you meet? What did you do? What were some of the positives? What might you do different this week?

If your group has not already read the “Moments”, “Milestones”, and “Your Family Rhythm” section of the Lifepoint Family Framework, read those sections as a group now.

II. IN THE WORD

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Israelite parents were commanded to influence their kids when they sat in their house, when they went for walks, at bedtime and when they got up in the morning. What times during the week give you the best opportunities to connect with your child(ren)?

Read Matthew 3:13-17. This is the account of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. Why do you think this was an important milestone in Jesus’ life on earth? How did Jesus’ Heavenly Father affirm this milestone?

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share about a moment in which God gave you the opportunity to connect a faith-based conversation with your child?

What are potential contexts – places, times, activities – that might provide opportunities for moments in the life of your family?

Imagine your child asks you a spiritual question that you don’t know the answer to. What do you do? How would you respond?

What are resources available to us when we don’t have an immediate answer to a spiritual question?

What were life milestones that your family celebrated growing up? How did you celebrate those milestones?

How do you think commemorating and celebrating spiritual milestones can help parents influence their children to know and love God?

If your family has participated in a milestone celebration (eg: child dedication, baptism, etc.) share about your experience. What was the most meaningful aspect of that milestone for you?

What is a potential upcoming spiritual milestone for your family? How are you helping your child prepare for that milestone? How would you like to celebrate that milestone?

As a Lifegroup, how can we commemorate and celebrate milestones together?

As our families establish and cultivate our family rhythms, what are ways we can support and encourage each other as we intentionally train and influence our kids to know and love God?

IV. TAKE ACTION

Where and how will you look for moments with your child this week?

If you haven't already fill out your family's own Milestone Map in your Family Framework Booklet.

Spend time this week praying for your child and their next spiritual milestone. For example: If your child hasn't yet to fully surrendered their life for Christ, pray that they would understand and respond to the Gospel!

What are ways we can be praying for each other's families this week?

LOOKING TO GO FURTHER?

If after completing this study your group would like to utilize another resource for parents, please consider the following recommendations:

Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family *by Paul David Tripp*

- This book is HIGHLY recommended

Shepherding a Child's Heart *by Ted Tripp*

The Legacy Path *by Brian Haynes*

Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens *by Paul David Tripp*





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