



**The Initiative
for Faith & Family**

Strengthening the Home

The-IFF.com



spiritual parenting

an awakening for today's families

participant's guide

Questions for Reflection

Take some time after Session 1 to discuss these questions with your spouse or another adult who is involved in your child's life. Write down your thoughts. You'll have a chance to share these at the beginning of Session 2.

If you don't have someone with whom to discuss these questions, you will find they are useful for journaling on your own.

1. What are some of the things we do in an effort to be perfect parents?
2. How is Spiritual Parenting different from the kind of parenting you are used to?
3. When you think about raising your children in the midst of an evil world to be light in the world, what questions or responses come to your mind?

Questions for Reflection (continued)

5. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life in regards to respect, knowing God and modeling faith?

6. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing?

4. How would you like your children to define themselves? What are some qualities you'd like to see in them by the time they are grown up?

5. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life?

6. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing?

Read chapters 1 and 2 in *Spiritual Parenting*.

Session 2

Environments for Cultivating Faith and Storytelling

Aha! Moments

The Big God Story shapes a worldview that is God-centered, not self-centered.

Questions for Reflection

1. How did your experience as a child help or not help you to know deep down that God loves you? How can you invite the Holy Spirit to lead your child to know God's love?
2. What do you think your child would do if you showed him kindness when he expected wrath?
3. Has the Holy Spirit ever guided you to surrender to God? Have you shared this story with your child?
4. Have you tried confessing a failure to your children and asking them for forgiveness?

Session 6

Environments of Love and Respect, Knowing, and Modeling

Aha! Moments

An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others."

- A.W. Towzer

Questions for Reflection

1. How do you respond to the idea of letting your child be eyewitness to your transformation? Does that sound wonderful? Scary? Crazy? Easy? Why?
2. Why do your children need to know that the big story is about God, not us?
3. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life as God invites him or her into The Big God Story?
4. What goes through your mind when you think about telling The Big God Story to your child? What about sharing your own redemption story?

Read chapter 3 of *Spiritual Parenting*.

Session 3

Environments of Identity and Faith Community

Aha! Moments

The Enemy will try to deceive our children into believing counterfeit identities.

5. Have you been awakened to any ways in which you've been thwarting what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your home? If so, where have you been off track? What would you like to do differently?

Read chapters 8 and 9 of *Spiritual Parenting*.

Questions for Reflection

1. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to lead you and your child to see responsibility as a privilege rather than a burden? What would change in your attitude, behavior, and response to others?
2. What are some of the things as a parent that you do that get in the way of teaching your child to be responsible?
3. Reflect on the discipline style you were raised with...was it a wrath-of-God type of discipline? or were you raised with little discipline? How did it affect you? Your relationship with God? Your responsibility?
4. Think of your child. What are appropriate painful things for your child? In what way could you build your child up?

Questions for Reflection

1. What are some of the sources that tell your child who he/she is? Who do these sources say your child is? How do these sources tell your child to finish this sentence: "Life depends on _____."
2. In what ways have you discovered that you have tried to create your child in your own image?
3. How does being secure as a parent in your God-chosen identity affect your child?
4. How has the faith community helped you know who you are?

Questions for Reflection (continued)

5. How will I/we intentionally and strategically set up an environment where my/our children will be a vital part of a faith community?

Read chapters 4 and 5 of *Spiritual Parenting*.

Identity Statement

My name is _____,
chosen and adopted son/daughter
of the Most High King;

Heir to an eternal inheritance
awaiting me in heaven;

Bought and completely paid for
by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ's own blood,
and sealed throughout all eternity
with the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Don't mess with me!

A Plan for Course Correction

Try following the steps of course correction, focusing on a problem or behavior in your household. You can do this exercise on your own or with your spouse or another adult.

1. What is the problem behavior? Which of your children is doing it?
2. Pray for yourself and this child. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the child's heart attitude and to show what the process of course correction should involve.
3. What is the heart attitude behind this child's behavior? (For example, is it malice, a desire to hurt? Is it insensitivity to others' needs? Is it impatience? Is it a resistance to taking responsibility? Is it fear? Pride? Greed - a resistance to the idea, "I have enough"?) Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to join in on the bigger picture of what He is already doing in your child's life.
4. What consequences could get at that heart attitude? What would be appropriately painful for this unique child?
5. How can you build this child up in love, along with imposing appropriate consequences?
6. What is the corrected course you want to chart out for this child?

Session 5

Environments of Responsibility and Course Correction

Aha! Moments

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Hebrews 12:11-13)

Session 4

Environments of Service and Out of the Comfort Zone

Aha! Moments

What needs to be done?

Questions for Reflection

1. How can you model service to your family?
2. What would happen if you asked your child how they served your family today?
3. In what way are you preparing your child with skills and faith muscles to be able to walk through a trial and be strengthened, not victimized by it?
4. Signs of children who are living in excessive comfort include laziness, ingratitude, lack of motivation, selfishness, slothfulness, a critical spirit, and gluttony--among others. Reflect on these words. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to you areas where your child's comfort may be affecting how God could be using him/her in the Big God Story.

5. Having kids is scary. As parents what are we afraid of? That our child's pain may be so severe we won't be able to endure watching it? That they may have such a severe trial they will lose their faith altogether or wander away from God? Are we afraid that during their trials others may look at us and wrongly judge our parenting skills? Take time to reread these questions and write down a recent moment where your child was out of their comfort zone and your reaction. When did you ask God to help?

6. Where do you see the Holy Spirit already at work in your child's life with regard to service and out of the comfort zone?

7. How might you come alongside and support what the Spirit is doing?

Read chapters 6 and 7 in *Spiritual Parenting*.