

CONNECTING TO THE FATHER

This study guide will help us turn what God is saying to us into action steps. The questions and scriptures are here to help us take our "Next Steps." Have a great discussion!

PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

God created each of us to be in relationship and to connect with others. The ability to relate to others is an attribute of God Himself.

Who in your life do you have the closest connection with and why? Share with your group.
(i.e. my husband, my mother, my sister, etc.)

READ

One of the most important connections in life is the relationship between a parent and their child. In every child and parent relationship there is correction and there is connection. The same is true in our relationship with God the Father.

Correction points the way. It teaches righteousness, it corrects, and it disciplines.

Connection melds your hearts together. It creates the desire to be with one another. Connection is the thing that, even when a parent corrects their child, it makes the child respond in love and respect.

The key to a healthy relationship is to maintain a healthy balance of both correction and connection. Often times, parents tend to lean one way or the other. If we parent only with correction, it turns the hearts of our children away from us. On the other hand, if we parent with no correction and only focus on building our connection, it enables the selfish desires of our children and it turns their hearts away from receiving correction.

DISCUSSION

Think back to your relationship with your parents growing up. How was the balance between instruction and connection in your relationship? How did that effect you? Share with your group.

READ

To keep a healthy balance of correction and connection within our earthly relationships, we can look for those two things in our relationship with God and how He balances them towards us so perfectly.

Parents who learn to balance these 2 things well ultimately teach their children how to receive correction from God and how to develop a personal connection with Him.

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." (1 Samuel 1:27-28)

Trust is one of the most important factors in a relationship. Just as a child must have a healthy trust in their parent, each of us must build a sense of trust in our heavenly Father.

DISCUSSION

Have you ever had a difficult time trusting someone? Why? Share with your group.

READ

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." (John 17:22-23)

Jesus makes it very clear that He doesn't just want us to follow God's laws, He wants us to be in love with God. He wants us to continually be in His presence; that's why He gave us The Holy Spirit, so that we can have an unbroken connection with God. The more you really spend time with Jesus, in His presence, the more you build trust with Him, because trust is built by spending time in his presence.

NEXT STEPS...

This week, commit to taking the following steps:

- Ask God to reveal to you any relationships in your life that you need to develop a better balance between connection and correction.
- Spend more time in God's presence by reading His Word more, praying & meditating on His promises, or singing worship songs at least once a day.