

Modern Family Part 3

Small Groups Leader Guide

Connect

Close your eyes. Choose your favorite Olympic sport. You've all picked Skeleton, you know like Luge, except face first. Imagine that you are the reigning Olympic gold medalist, and now you've come back for more. There you are, at the top of the mountain, in the gates, in your overly tight onesie. All of your hard work has paid off... you're in prime position to win again. All those days of training and weird meals your coach said you had to eat have paid off. You take your place at the gates with confidence, ready to conquer this mountain face first with just a couple of super sharp blades to guide you.

How do you feel? Are you going to win? Why?

What are the keys to an Olympian winning? (Vision, Training, etc.)

Do you walk in this kind of confidence in your day to day life? Why or why not?

The truth is, when we become followers of Christ we were already winners, conquerors as Paul puts it. Our faith in Christ has sealed the deal that we will win in the end. It is the mean time, the daily challenges, where the opportunities for discipleship present themselves.

In the Bible

We have all experienced discipline in our lives... some of us more deserving than others. For some of us our parents were more a disciplinarian than a disciple maker. That is an important truth to recognize as we consider our own parenting styles. It is also important to recognize the disciple makers that invest in our lives. Can anyone share an experience of someone who invested in them to encourage them to be more like Christ?

It is clear in the Bible, that God has a vision for parents, and all Christians, to be disciple makers. Simply put, discipleship is the becoming more like Christ by following what He said in faith.

Let's take a look at a few verses regarding discipleship. (Consider having different people look up different verses.)

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

You'll recall the first part of this from Week 1 of this series when Jesus quotes it. Not only are we to Love the Lord and our Neighbor, but we are called to teach others to do the same. How do we integrate teaching others to love God and others in our days?

Proverbs 22:6; 1 Timothy 4:8

As Pastor Brandon mention, the passage from Proverbs is wisdom literature, not a promise. Training, or directing children, happens in relationship. What can we do to build healthier relationships with those we influence, our kids, friends in the workplace, our neighbors?

Paul writing to Timothy reminds him that some things are good, and other things are eternal. Where are you spending you time in the relationships with those around you, pointing them towards the good things in life or the eternal things?

Matthew 28:19-20; John 15:16

Where does the authority and power to make disciples come from? (Holy Spirit) Jesus tells us in this verse in John that when were up to His work, He gives us the authority to ask for big things in prayer. Have you ever had an important boss tell you to go ask for something and, "Just tell them it is for me." Well, that is what Jesus is saying.

2 Timothy 2:2

You're not the first, and you won't be last. For thousands of years folks have struggled through awkward and tough conversations that thanks to the Holy Spirit have become fruitful. Who do you need to be sharing your faith and life with in relationship?

Apply

Pulling all of these things together, relationships are tough, but Jesus really cared for people and wanted them to have an opportunity to know and love God.

What are a couple of practical things that you will commit to do this week in order to build stronger relationships with those around you and win the opportunity to pour into their lives?

Who would you commit to praying for this week, each day, so that that Holy Spirit will be invited into your relationship with that person?

What is your next step in faith as it relates to discipleship? Is it time to find a mentor, become a mentor, begin serving on a team focused on discipling, etc.?

Prayer Requests, Prayer, and Closing

Write down any prayer requests from the group. If you would like to share them with the Pastoral team for us to pray over as well, email Pastor Clayton at Clayton@gracehillschurch.com.