



Week Four: Opt For Relationships

Text: Luke 10:38-42

There is much in the world today that inspires fear for parents, and even causes some to question the wisdom or desirability of having children at all. One fear that can dominate the decisions we make for our kids (or ourselves) is FOMO—the fear of missing out. We want to give our children the opportunities that come from a variety of experiences, so pack their schedules and ours with activities. The danger is that all that activity actually comes at the cost of Relationships. We must recognize that relationship is the powerful context for influence with our kids. When we prioritize relationship above activities, we can better prepare our children to love God and follow His ways so that we will be able to release them to thrive in a difficult and evil world.

A note to small group leaders:

It is a common pitfall in Bible Study discussions to become distracted by how a topic or a passage pertains to someone else rather than ourselves. In extreme cases, we may even assume the lesson ONLY applies to someone else. Some of us focus on “How I already do this well” or “Why this is impossible for me.” A wiser approach is to commit to think deeply about how every passage applies to me, today.

Depending on the stage of life of your group members, you as the leader may have to think creatively about how to help your group members do this. If you

have people who are not parents or are not currently raising their kids, be sure to ask them their thoughts and feelings each week. Be aware that there may be pain in this discussion for those experiencing fertility struggles or who have a strained relationship with their adult kids, for example. It may help to remember that we are all called to reproduce ourselves, spiritually, whether we are parents or not. In fact, older believers are instructed to train younger brothers and sisters in godly living. (Titus 2) And the Apostle Paul compared his ministry of discipleship to the work of a mother and a father of young children. (1 Thessalonians 2)

The following questions are based on the "My Application" guide on the back of the sermon notes in the bulletin. Feel free to revise or customize them according to your group's needs.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about your upcoming week and your commitments. On a scale from 1 to 10, how busy do you feel? How do your abundant choices add to that feeling? How does business impact your relationships?
2. Read the story of Jesus and Martha in Luke 10:38-42. Notice the descriptions of Martha in verses 40-41. Are there things you consider a necessity in your schedule that Jesus would call optional?
3. As you look at your normal week, how have you scheduled your time to prioritize your relationship with God? Your spouse? Your children? What times are blocked out for those relationships?
4. Share some activities you could eliminate that would free up time or mental space for relationships. Be radical and creative.
5. Don't stop with eliminating things from your calendar, take it a step further. How can you be proactive about pursuing and building the relationships that matter to you?

Application:

- Relationships thrive on conversation. Conversations are driven by interesting questions. Brainstorm some engaging questions you can ask the next time you are with people you care about. Then listen to their answers.
- Return next Sunday for the next installment. Stay engaged. Even if you think it doesn't apply to you yet, or anymore—Ask God what He wants to say to you...and LISTEN.
- Who do you know who needs to hear this series? Invite them to join you.

Prayer:

Try Conversational Prayer. Jesus is in the room with us when we gather with other Christians. Instead of “sharing prayer requests” before we pray, we can just pray. Tell Jesus what is on your heart and listen as your friends do the same.

Scripture Memory:

*“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered,
“you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed.
Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her.”*

Luke 10:41-40