

## Growth Group Discussion Questions—Jan. 10-16

1. When it comes to the playground practice of picking teams before a game, were you picked first, last, somewhere in the middle, or not at all?
2. Let's lay a rock-solid Scriptural foundation for our growth group discussion. Have someone read Luke 6:46-48 out loud and then have someone pray for a stimulating and productive growth group discussion.
3. Dave said that a weak family foundation is one where love is based on performance. Maybe you grew up in a family like this (Ouch, that hurts!). Maybe that's not your experience, but you've seen that pattern in other families. What was the impact of performance-based love on you or others?
4. When it comes to family life, another cracked foundation is "parenting-by-image-management (i.e., when parents rigorously control external behavior so as to appear good to others, rather than focusing on shaping the child's heart). Was this your experience growing up? Was it the experience of someone you knew? What was the result of building a family on this flimsy foundation?
5. Look up Proverbs 29:25, a short verse that speaks volumes about the dangers of "parenting-by-image-management." First, what does it say? Second, what does it mean? Put it in your own words.
6. Rather than fearing people's opinions of us and our children, we ought to have fear of God (i.e., a strong commitment to please God in every facet of life). Look up each verse about fear of God. Each contains a benefit for parenting and for life in general. As you check out each verse, unscramble the benefit.
  - A. Prov. 1:7 GNGKNOWLEDGEBEININOF \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Prov. 9:10 NGININGEBOWIFSDMO \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Prov. 14:27 ONIATFEILFNUOF \_\_\_\_\_
7. Buildings that are set on pillars are strong. Just think, the Greek Parthenon has been standing for 2500 years! Which of the four pillars of a strong family foundation do you need to put up in your family life? They are: (1) believe that you are loved by Christ; (2) trust that Christ will give you strength; (3) live in Christ's grace; and (4) accept your role as your child's spiritual teacher.
8. As a parent, grandparent, or even as a family friend, share something specific that you can do to set up one of these four pillars in your family, or in the family of someone you care about?

## Family Matters Building a Strong Foundation

### I. What A Weak Family Foundation Looks Like.

*"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

**Luke 6:46 - 49**

#### A. A Weak Family Foundation Is **Performance Based** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Performance based families ask the question, "How do we behave?"** \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. A Weak Foundation Is **Image Managed**.\_\_\_\_\_.

**Image managed families ask the question, "How do we look?"** \_\_\_\_\_

*"For they loved praise from people more than praise from God."*

**John 12:43**

*Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.*

**Proverbs 29:25**

#### C. A Weak Foundation Is **Ego Driven** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ego =** **edging God out** \_\_\_\_\_

Ego driven families ask the question, **“How does this impact me?”** \_\_\_\_\_

## II. A Strong Family Is Built Upon A Strong Foundation.

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 3:11**

*“There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”*

**1 Samuel 2:2**

*Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers, consider well her ramparts, view her citadels, that you may tell of them to the next generation. For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.*

**Psalms 48:12 - 14**

*“A wise man . . . built his house on the rock.”*

**Matthew 7:24**

## III. Four Pillars Of A Strong Family Foundation.

### A. The First Pillar: Believe That You Are **Love By Christ**\_\_\_\_\_.

*. . . I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

**Ephesians 3:17 - 19**

### B. The Second Pillar: Trust That Christ Will Give You **His Strength To Parent**\_\_\_\_\_.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

**Ephesians 3:16 – 17**

## Seven Insights On Parenting I Learned Through The Years:

1. What a selfish person I really am.
2. Every weakness I have will be revealed.
3. Kids are geniuses at finding the right buttons to push. And they can take great delight in pushing them. GPS set for your weaknesses.
4. Whoever is most like me, I am going to have issues with.
5. Parenting is for life.
6. There is nothing harder and more demanding than being a parent.
7. There is nothing more important and more fulfilling than being a parent.

*I can do everything through him who give me strength.*

**Philippians 4:13**

### C. The Third Pillar: Live In **Christ Grace**.\_\_\_\_\_.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8 - 9**

Grace = **undeserved and unmerited love of God**\_\_\_\_\_

### D. The Fourth Pillar: Accept Your Role As Your Child’s **Spiritual Teacher**\_\_\_\_\_.

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4 - 7**