

## Dgroup Discussion Guide for May 13, 2018

### Mamma MIA

Scripture: Proverbs 31: 26- 28

***She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.***

A comparison study done on the year 1970 and 2012 shows that in 1970 there was 40% of women who stayed at home while her husband worked. This number decreased in 2012 to 20%. This simply means that there was a good number of mothers who left the home to go to the workplace. What is the significance of these statistics to the family? It implies that since there is no mother at home to take care of the kids, the raising and nurturing of the kids are then delegated to someone else. Even more disturbing this also means that these kids are being influenced and disciplined by someone else.

We have to always bear in mind that it is in close proximity, it is in the intimacy of a relationship that we can significantly influence our children's character, their values, their beliefs . . . their future.

Genesis 3 shows us God's initial plan for the family. He had designed that the husband be the bread winner, the provider for the family while the wife be the nurturer. But our reality sometimes requires that the wife also find a job to augment the family income. In the long run, it is the children who are at the losing end.

Thus many mothers today are Mama M.I.A. (Missing In Action) at home. It then becomes necessary to reassess whether it is needed to have that second income. We read from 2 Timothy 1: 1-7 how important the impact of a mother is:

***Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus <sup>1</sup>by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,***

***<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved <sup>3</sup>son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***<sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience <sup>4</sup>the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my <sup>5</sup>prayers night and day, <sup>6</sup>longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>7</sup>For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. <sup>8</sup>For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>9</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of <sup>10</sup>timidity, but of power and love and <sup>11</sup>discipline.***

Paul stresses to us the importance of the influence of Timothy's godly mother and grandmother to his own personal faith. It was because of the impact of the example of these women that Paul knew that Timothy's conviction and perseverance will not fail, and it was because of this knowledge that Paul entrusted to Timothy the church.

Would you not like to have this kind of impact on your children and your children's children and for all generations to follow?

legacy.

1. PRAY (v. 3-4)
  - It is important that we constantly pray for our children. To pray for their futures, to pray for their future spouses.
  - Pray for their character, for them to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - Let us pray unceasingly for our children, as Paul prayed for Timothy his spiritual son.
  
2. ENSURE (v 5)
  - Proverbs 1: 8 says **Hear, my son, your father's instructions and forsake not your mother's teaching for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck**
  - Timothy's faith began with the grandmother Lois, she was able to impart this to her daughter Eunice, and then to Timothy
  - We have to remember that we cannot assume that our children's faith is like our own. There is the danger that they are living their Christian life on borrowed faith and have not developed their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - We have to ensure that our children are saved. That our children are progressing in their own personal walks, and that their faith is founded on their personal relationship with Jesus
  
3. REMIND (v 6)
  - We have to constantly remind them of the importance of their own faith in Jesus.
  - We have to call them to accountability if their lives, their actions do not exhibit, or bear witness to God's grace
  - We have to constantly remind them to live out their salvation, to walk the path that leads to God, to live lives that are pleasing to God.
  
4. ADMONISH (v 7)
  - When we have already gently reminded our children, and still they do not listen. . . the we admonish them.
  - To admonish is to strongly remind them of their position in God. To admonish them of the gift of salvation, and the payment for sin.
  - We cannot falter and be timid because God has given us the spirit of power, love and discipline.
  - We can not do this on our own, we can only do this through the power of God in us. But we have to let go and let God.

It is with these four things that we can assure ourselves and our children that we will live lives that are pleasing to God. And that we will leave a godly legacy, a testimony of God's saving grace in our lives.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the things you are praying for in your family? Do you pray for each other?
2. Talk about God's gift of salvation. Has every member truly accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior?
3. How is each one's personal walk? How can you support, encourage each other in order to grow deeper in your relationship with God?
4. What kind of legacy, do you as a family, want to leave?

#### PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.