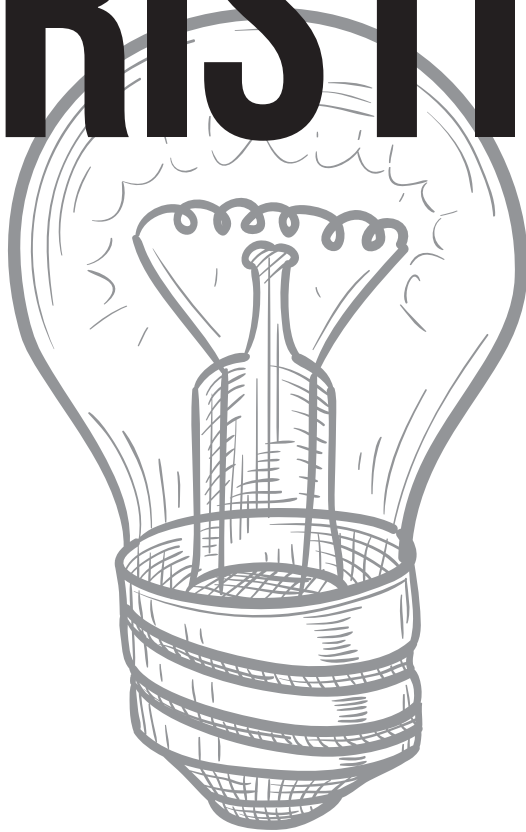


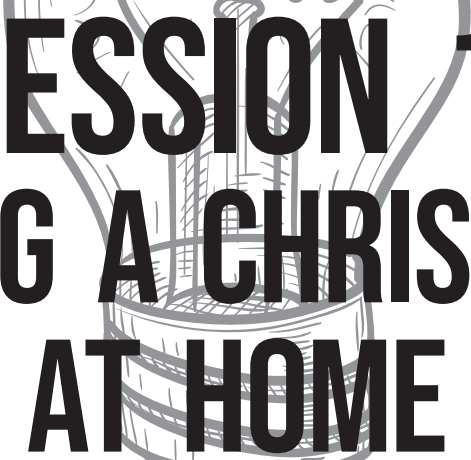
# EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN



Living Like Christ  
Seven Days a Week

# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Using This Small Group Resource                     | 4  |
| Session 1: Being a Christian at Home                | 6  |
| Session 2: Being an Everyday Christian<br>at School | 12 |
| Session 3: Being an Everyday Christian at Play      | 18 |
| Session 4: Being Environmentally Conscious          | 24 |
| Session 5: Living Healthy                           | 30 |
| Session 6: Helping the Needy                        | 36 |
| Session 7: Creating a Christian Worldview           | 42 |



# **SESSION 1: BEING A CHRISTIAN AT HOME**

## SESSION SNAPSHOT

Weekly Verses: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

**Session Objective:** To help students understand what it means to be an everyday Christian at home.

## OPENER

Invite your group to finish the following statements. After each response, invite students to expand on their response.

- Some qualities of a healthy family are...
- A significant challenge that a lot of families face today is...
- I think the most important thing a family could ever do together is...
- I know my family loves me when...

After students have finished responding, ask:

- Is there anything you wish you could change about your family? If so, what is it?
- What is something that you really appreciate and value about your own family?

## ***Understanding 1 Corinthians 13:1-7***

The Apostle Paul has just spent some time talking about various spiritual gifts that people possess and the importance of having both unity and diversity within the body of Christ. Paul says an eye would never say to a hand, "I don't need you," nor would a head say to the feet, "I don't need you." Likewise, each person plays an important part in the body of Christ, regardless of who they are.

Paul goes on to say that none of these gifts matter at all if a person does not love well. These words are reminiscent of the Greatest Commandment that we read about in the Gospels—to love God and to love our neighbor. If there is one quality or goal that a Christian ought to strive for, it is to love well. Sometimes loving other people will be easy, and other times we will find it extremely difficult. Regardless, both Jesus and Paul are clear that loving God and loving people must be foundational to our lives as Christians.

## OPENING THE WORD

Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Ask your students to respond to the following questions:

- What does this passage teach us about how we should relate to our families?
- Do you ever find it difficult to love your family? Why or why not?

Read verses 1-3.

- What do you think Paul's main point is in this part of the passage? Do you agree with Paul? Why or why not?
- In what ways might a child express love to their parents? What about parents to their children?
- Do you think a family can argue with each other while still loving each other well? Why or why not?

Read verses 4-7.

- Paul lists many attributes to describe what love is. Do you ever find it difficult to be patient and kind to your family? How so?
- Paul tells us that love doesn't envy or boast, and it isn't proud. Why can't love be those things?
- Paul tell us that love does not dishonor. How is honoring your father and mother a way of expressing love for them?
- Paul says that love doesn't keep a record of wrongs. How can refusing to forgive and holding onto grudges get in the way of loving your family?

## UNDERSTANDING BEING A CHRISTIAN AT HOME

Many people outside of the faith will determine the validity of Christianity based on how they see Christians living their day-to-day lives.

- Does your faith influence or shape how you treat and interact with your family?
- How has God impacted your behavior and attitude toward your family?

While it is not always easy, here are some characteristics of how we should live out our Christian faith at home.

### 1. Godly Speech

Godly speech is more than just telling the truth. It is telling the truth in love with the purpose of building up rather than tearing down. When we use Godly speech, we use words of blessing rather than curses, words of constructive discipline rather than destructive punishment, words of hope rather than despair, words of forgiveness rather than judgment, words of unconditional love rather than hate.

## **2. Attitudes and Acts of Generosity and Mercy**

The Christian home can be one of the fertile fields for planting, watering, and harvesting the fruits of generosity and mercy.

## **3. Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)**

If we were to “cut into” the character of a Christian home, no matter where we chose to take a slice, we should find love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These fruits of the Spirit are the DNA of Christian character, and especially the character of the Christian home, one of the primary places that personal character is nurtured.

## **REFLECTION**

Give students a few minutes to read over the phrases in their student handouts. Have them circle the two or three phrases that best describe their current feelings about their family. Once students have been given enough time, have them come back together and share (if they would like) what they circled and how the group can be praying for each other. After everyone has shared, close your time together in prayer.

- I want to have more patience with my family.
- I want to be better at forgiving my family.
- I need to apologize to someone in my family for something I have done or how I have acted in the past.
- I want to be kinder to my family.
- I want to spend more quality time with my family.
- I want to do a better job at listening to others in my family.
- I want to do a better job at honoring my parents.
- I need to forgive someone in my family.

## **TAKEAWAY THOUGHT**

There is no doubt about it—sometimes our families can be the most difficult people in the world to love. However, Jesus was clear that the greatest commandment in all the Scriptures was to love God and others. Our families are not an exception to this commandment. Commit to praying that God would help you love your family this week, especially during those times and in those relationships when you find yourself particularly challenged.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

# SESSION 1: BEING A CHRISTIAN AT HOME



## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

## REFLECTION

Circle the two or three phrases that best describe your current feelings about your family.

- I want to have more patience with my family.
- I want to be better at forgiving my family.

- I need to apologize to someone in my family for something I have done or how I have acted in the past.
- I want to be kinder to my family.
- I want to spend more quality time with my family.
- I want to do a better job at listening to others in my family.
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- I need to forgive someone in my family.