

Pastor Jay's Midweek Moment
May 14, 2025

In our Homes....

Our homes tend to be our sanctuary. Today more than ever, with our busy lives we look forward to coming home as a way to escape the reality of our work life. Over the years, with the reality of our brokenness so very open and in the front of our news cycles, our home is again becoming the one place where we can feel ok. It's one of the few places that usually holds some consistency in our lives. Which makes it the perfect place to begin with Jesus.

The call for family discipleship began in the first century as folks gathered in their homes to break bread and devote themselves to the teachings of Jesus. Over time, the pendulum began to swing from the home to the church. The church began to assume the role of teaching the families, and by the 1500's it held the exclusive rights to Jesus. Until the 1500s came along and our namesake, Martin Luther wanted to bring the education and discipleship of Jesus back to the family homes – and the pendulum began to swing back.

After he wrote his “catechism” (teachings) about the foundational parts of following Jesus – the creeds; the ten commandments; and the Lord's prayer, there was a rise in discipleship among the people. But the pendulum began to swing back again in the enlightenment age, (beginning in the late 1800's) as schools and churches again began to dominate the teaching and stories of Jesus, and the homes were not as big in the scheme of discipling. The institution began to have the control and authority because it held the scholarship about Jesus.

I believe the pendulum is swinging back again. There is a call to home-based discipleship and home based churches. And in some ways, I would encourage us to hop on to the pendulum and continue to ride it. Family devotions, family worship, Bible story time – however we want to call it, is an integral part of family discipleship. Building time in God's Word and in prayer into the family rhythms is one of the most critical aspects of family or home-based discipleship.

Home based discipleship, or family discipleship is about cultivating spiritual maturity in our households through loving, gospel-centered relationships and appointed times. Family prayer times may feel clunky and awkward, but it's crucial. Our families can talk to God together, seeking direction, guidance, and strength when needed. But teaching our young ones that Jesus is the most important relationship we have will help sustain them for the years to come.

As we look to “point people to Jesus through intentional relationships” it has to begin at home first. Point your family to Jesus. Point your spouse to Jesus. Point your family reunion to Jesus. Point your kids to Jesus. Point your family pet to Jesus (that might get your kids to like Jesus too). Whatever it is, and whoever it is, begin pointing to Jesus at home first. Not that you have to be perfect, but that you are consistent, intentional, and Jesus becomes a part of your family rhythm.

I want to explore family discipleship a bit more with you over the years to come. I believe it is important for us to devote the time to keep growing our own relationship with Jesus, and our families are on the front line with us. Let's find some ways to explore together, as we keep Jesus in front of us, together.

God Loves You and So Do I,
Pastor Jay