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a resource for:

**Men**

## Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids



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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## What is spiritual leadership?

Spiritual leadership has its foundation in a life surrendered to God. A spiritual leader inspires others to be Christ-like in a nurturing, self-sacrificial manner which affirms and encourages others. He has no tolerance for sin and readily assumes responsibility for error without attempting to escape accountability. Spiritual leadership rests on trust, love, integrity, and honesty. *(Romans 12:17) "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."*

Spiritual leadership is often referred to as "servant leadership." Spiritual leaders are called to serve others, thereby serving God. They lead by example, striving to remain blameless by the grace of God. Spiritual leaders are conformed to the image of Christ through their victories and failings, knowing their faith defines them, not their success. A spiritual leader is open to counsel and willingly steps into the leadership roles the Lord has appointed him to even when he feels inadequate, fearful, or uncomfortable. Effective spiritual leadership requires a blend of assertiveness and humility which is grounded upon and guided by the Scriptures and leading of the Holy Spirit. Knowing the Word of God and intentionally allowing it to change his behaviors and attitudes is fundamental to a spiritual leader's life as he leads others by example. This example serves as a witness both to the believer and the unbeliever alike. *(2 Timothy 3:10) "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience."*

## What isn't spiritual leadership?

*(2 Timothy 2:24) "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient."* Spiritual leaders do not lead by controlling or micromanaging others. They do not claim spiritual superiority but are gentle and patient realizing who they have become is because of God's grace. *(1 Corinthians 15:10) "But by the grace of God I am what I am..."* True spiritual leaders are never demeaning to others and never use coercion to further their agendas. They follow the biblical principles of being submissive one to another in the spirit of humility. *(1 Peter 5:5) "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility:"*

*(1 Timothy 3:4) "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity."* Spiritual leaders do not shirk their duties at home and elsewhere, but they accept them willingly, modeling leadership through godly behavior and teaching biblical truths. *(1 Timothy 5:8) "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*

## Who is a spiritual leader?

We might quickly assume a spiritual leader is only an elder, minister, Sunday School teacher, or those with an "official" position in church. However, since all Christians are called to a life of servitude and love toward others, all Christians are spiritual leaders with varying roles and responsibilities in the home, church, workplace, and community. It is easy and tempting to pass off opportunities for service with the mindset we are not qualified or authorized. We must all be open and available to that which God would have us to do. *(Galatians 5:13) "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*

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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## Spiritual Leadership in the Home:

1. As a Husband
2. As a Provider
3. In Relationships
4. As a Teacher
5. In Discipline
6. As a Protector
7. In Worship

## Study method:

This Bible study discussion aid is best intended for small groups (2-10 brothers) which meet regularly. Assuming you are meeting as a group, when you come together, begin with prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to penetrate hearts with His Word. The individual lessons have been designed to be used singly or in combination with others. Each lesson begins with at least one verse from Scripture. This verse or subsequent verses could be used as a possible memory verse from session to session. It is suggested each member of the group complete the lessons individually and come to the group prepared to discuss the lesson. Another potential benefit of this group setting is the opportunity to create deeper relationships with each other through your time together. These relationships can be used to build accountability, share prayer requests, and strengthen each other both during these studies and at other times. Be confident that time in God's Word and in the fellowship of God's people has great potential to build up, convict and encourage your heart.

# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 1. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – AS A HUSBAND

*(Ephesians 5:23) “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

*(Ephesians 5:25) “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”*

Husbands are called to assume the role of a Christ-like servant leader who will guide the course of his family. He is to be the self-sacrificing head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church and gave Himself for it. This does not give authorization for lordship. Being controlling, domineering, or disrespectful to one’s wife is sin. Likewise, not assuming the duties of spiritual leadership because of absence, apathy, passivity, or neglect is also unscriptural. Christ demonstrated His authority through submission.

*(1 Corinthians 7:3) “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.”*

*(1 Corinthians 11:3) “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”*

1. Discuss why God’s order doesn’t allow for domination by the husband.
  2. Contrast a husband who loves his wife as Christ loves the church and a husband who maintains excessive control and dominion over her and his family. Provide examples of how the husband and family daily interact.
  3. Define “due benevolence” in *1 Corinthians 7:3*.
  4. List five (or more) roles godly husbands are called to.
  5. Discuss any of these roles you don’t understand.
  6. Explain what it looks like to carry out *Ephesians 5:23* and *5:25*.
  7. Evaluate areas your wife could help you to improve as a spiritual leader. Have you asked for her help?
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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 2. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – AS A PROVIDER

*(1 Timothy 5:8) “But if any provide [take thought] not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”*

Caring and providing for those in our own households goes far beyond the provision of material goods such as food, shelter, and clothing. Being a provider includes taking a leadership role in establishing and maintaining biblical stability in the home through modeling Christ’s example of integrity and character. In addition, adequate provision for a family requires foresight, purposeful planning, and faithful prayer.

*(1 Timothy 6:10) “For the love of money is the root of all evil...”*

1. Describe the purpose of money. Share how you deal with the desire to love money and crave more of it.
2. List concrete examples on how you teach your family the value and purpose of money.

*(Proverbs 15:27) “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts [bribes] shall live.”*

3. Discuss how being greedy might trouble your household. Is that a struggle for you?
4. Assess yourself on the principle of balancing work and family life. Share examples.
5. Has there ever been a time when you were tempted to take part in a dishonest deal or cheat financially? Explain the situation and how you dealt with it.

*(Proverbs 13:22) “A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children...”*

6. Fill in the blank: The above verse provides \_\_\_\_\_ to me as a spiritual leader. Explain your answer choice. [answers could include but are not limited to: accountability, legacy, encouragement, etc]
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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 3. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – IN RELATIONSHIPS

*(Deuteronomy 6:6-7) “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”*

Fatherhood brings a unique opportunity and a crucial responsibility. Fathers are encouraged to teach and model biblical truth for the eternal benefit and welfare of their children. They are to exercise appropriate, corrective discipline according to biblical directives and acknowledge and seek to honor God in all areas of life. This will involve modeling confession and forgiveness when necessary. Above all, they are to show the love Christ has shown to them to their children. This life-long commission applies not only to these family relationships but also to whatever additional relationships fathers may find themselves in.

*(Psalm 103:13) “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.”*

*(Luke 15:20) “And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.”*

1. Explain what these verses tell us about a father’s heart. Could they be written about you? What characteristics could be written about you?

*(Proverbs 13:1) “A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.”*

*(Joel 1:3) “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”*

2. These verses indicate the need to instruct and teach our children. Explain the role relationships play in the effectiveness of that instruction. List ways you are instructing your children or could be instructing them.

*(Proverbs 13:24) “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”*

*(Colossians 3:20-21) “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”*

3. Explain the most important factor when administering discipline. What steps can you take to remember this factor?

*(Proverbs 20:7) “The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”*

4. Define integrity. Summarize ways you as a father/spiritual leader can grow in integrity.

*(1 Timothy 3:4-5) “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”*

5. After analyzing the scriptures in this lesson, share how the relationships of fatherhood are unique opportunities and responsibilities towards the body of Christ.
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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 4. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – AS A TEACHER

*(Proverbs 22:6) “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

Fathers have a grave responsibility to teach their children about God, His Word, and how to live life accordingly. Fathers have a special responsibility to their sons to teach them how to be godly men, to help them understand what it means to be male, and how to conduct themselves in that role. Fathers have a unique opportunity to their daughters to affirm them in their beauty and teach them to protect their modesty. Part of teaching includes giving instruction, but most of what children remember of their dads is their model of behavior, attitude, and integrity.

*(Deuteronomy 6:6-7) “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”*

*(Psalm 1:1) “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*

1. According to these verses, where must God’s Word be before we can teach our children? Describe your personal devotion/study time in light of these verses.
2. What do these verses say about when and how often we should teach our children? On a scale of 1-10, how often do you apply this principle?
3. Do you pray for, and use, teachable moments? Share a teachable moment.

*(Proverbs 17:6) “Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”*

4. If we interviewed your children, what would your children report? How do they see you? List words they would use to describe you.

*(Joel 1:3) “Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”*

5. What does this verse imply about the importance of teaching your children? Discuss the exponential consequences of a lack of biblical teaching by parents, whether by word or example.
  6. Review some special principles your parents passed along to you. Are there principles you wish they would have taught you? Are there principles you wish they wouldn’t have taught you?
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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 5. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – IN DISCIPLINE

*(Proverbs 22:15) “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”*

*(Ephesians 6:4) “And, ye fathers, provoke [enrage] not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*

Children require discipline. Adults require discipline. In order for discipline to accomplish the purpose of correcting a behavior, it must be applied lovingly and without anger. The Bible reminds us God corrects all of His children in love. *(Hebrews 12:6) “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”* Both parents should work together to bring up their children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord” (*Ephesians 6:4*), and the father should be prepared to and willing to take a lead in this responsibility.

*(Psalm 103:13) “Like as a father pitieth [has compassion on] his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.”*

*(Proverbs 13:24) “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”*

1. What do these verses say about how God loves us and disciplines us? Identify how that correlates to disciplining our children.
2. As you consider Question 1, which tends to describe your attitude toward your children: love or discipline? Explain.
3. Examine how you were disciplined as a child by your parents. Does that affect how you discipline your children? Why or why not?

*(Proverbs 23:13-14) “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”*

4. These verses sound harsh. Explain what the verses imply about the importance of discipline.
5. Fill in the Blank: The desired effect of discipline is \_\_\_\_\_. Why is discipline portrayed as not being pleasurable?

*(2 Peter 1:6) “And to knowledge temperance [self control]; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;”*

6. This verse is a teaching in spiritual growth. Relate the importance of combining the principles of temperance, patience, and godliness in disciplining our children.
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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 6. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – AS A PROTECTOR

*(Psalm 4:8) "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."*

God alone can keep us truly safe but there is usually an understood expectation fathers will be the family's protector. Protection can take many forms, such as providing a home as a shelter. Another example of protection is keeping the family shielded from the evil in the world, whether it is monitoring the use of technology or encouraging modest dress. Fathers have the role as the go-to person when the doorbell rings at midnight or the power goes out in a storm. Our Heavenly Father is our Protector, our Rock, and our Shield, so likewise Dad is the one who should provide stability, safety, and protection for his family from the scares of the world. While we realize we cannot prevent storms, sickness, accident, etc., we can ground our children in Truth to help them in whatever they may experience and point them to God.

*(Proverbs 18:10) "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*

1. These verses refer to God as our Protector. List ways in which a father can be his family's protector in daily life.

*(Psalm 16:1) "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust."*

2. For a family to put their trust in the father, summarize how he must conduct himself.

3. Illustrate some ways you can continue to grow your family's trust in your ability to lead and direct. Give some examples.

4. Reflect on how well you trusted your father as a leader/protector of his family. Share examples.

5. Can a father lose the trust of his family? Why or why not?

*(John 17:15) "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."*

6. Examine and list the top five evils you want to protect your family from. Summarize how you are going to keep them from them.

*(Proverbs 14:26) "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."*

7. List ways in which your home should be a place of refuge for your family.

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# Spiritual Leadership in the Home Discussion Aids

## 7. SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME – IN WORSHIP

*(Hebrews 10:25) “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”*

Fathers as spiritual leaders set the standard for worship by instruction and example. Where this is lacking, effective leadership diminishes. The Bible teaches we are not to neglect assembling ourselves together, so a father’s duty is to engage his family in a local congregation. Worship within the home will look different from family to family. Some common ways families worship are: personalized devotion, out-loud praying during mealtime or bedtime, reading and discussing Scriptures and Bible stories, and singing hymns. Many are essential elements for a spiritual leader to consider for his family.

*(James 5:16) “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

1. Prayer is important in the family. What does prayer look like in your family? List aspects of *James 5:16* you want to work on over the next few weeks or months.

*(2 Timothy 3:15) “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

2. How is it possible for someone to know the Bible from a child? On a scale of 1-10, how well do your children know Scripture? List ways you could improve their knowledge.

3. Outline your family’s devotion and worship. Distinguish roles each family member plays in this devotion and worship, including yourself. Beginning with yourself, identify areas you can each grow.

*(Joshua 24:15) “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

4. Does this verse speak to your heart? Demonstrate how your family knows this.

*(Isaiah 28:10) “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...”*

5. Create a diagram to illustrate this verse. Include certain precepts in 20 years you want your children/family to remember about Godly worship.

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