



THE "WE" TEAM

EPISODE 5

GO DEEPER

Be United

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Introduction

"...Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him – Luke 5:27-28 NLT

Called: Summoned. Parent: To bring up and care for. Parenting is a privilege and a responsibility. From Parent Compass Episode 5, Bill and Novelette Collins tell their story of how they became a better team with Gideon Michael, William, Caleb, Stephen, and Evadney and how it made them a better family.

So grab your Bible, and as you answer the following questions, keep in mind: What's God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?



The "We" Team

"We have to space out how many people can pray before we eat because if we don't food's going to be cold" – Bill (:39).

1. What might be something(s) fun, cute or funny that your child(ren) did or are doing now? ☺
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and 1 Corinthians 11:1. What might have encouraged a desire in the Collins' kids to pray? What characteristics or virtues would you like to encourage in your child(ren)?



Likeminded

"The Holy Spirit wakes me up early...and He's like, "Stop playing games" – Novelette (4:57).

3. Read Philippians 2:1-2, 5-8. According to these verses a) who are we to strive to be likeminded with?
b) From the verses what are some characteristics of Christ? (Optional: list other verses giving characteristics of Christ.)

4. In what areas in your family are you like-minded a) with each other b) with God? How has that helped your family?



Discord

“You’re going to have issues. ... You have two sinful beings being put together in what God has called perfect which is marriage ... because He created it. So that’s perfect, but you still have two sinful beings.” – Novelette (6:46)

5. God created marriage in the beginning with Adam and Eve. In verses Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:19; Matthew 19:5-9, what has God said about marriage?

Including the exact words in the verse Eph 5:21 in your answer, spouses are to submit to one another, why? – for what reason?

In Ephesians holy is used twice to describe marriage. What does holy mean?

Based on the answers to the two questions above, if in marriage we are to submit to each other out of reverence to Christ and marriage is holy or set apart in service to God. What does that mean for us personally? The verses above can be used in your answer.

Marriage is the first organization, created and designed by God to display his great love. The Bible says, “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13 (NLT) That is what Christ did for us, and what God calls husbands to be willing to do for their wives. Christ died the most excruciating death known to man, paying the price for our sins, in order that whoever believes and accepts him as Savior will have everlasting life. God asks us to have that love for one another especially in marriage. Marriage is set apart to display his great love; 1. in our love back to God, 2. in our love for one another in the marriage and family, and 3. in our love for others that our family comes in contact with. Marriage is to be holy or set apart in service to God, meaning to love God and love others in the family and outside of it with a pure love, goodness, kindness and compassion, where selflessness reigns in submission to one another out of reverence and honor and in love to God. Single parents as well can commit themselves to God and this same love of God, family and others.

“I didn’t take what the Lord said about whether it was marriage or parenting or finances, friendship – whatever it may be – seriously and really apply it” – Bill (7:07).

4) Read Galatians 5:22-23, then Galatians 5:16-17, and 19-21. Fill in the blank. The verse says: “we are _____ to do whatever we want.” James 4:1-2 (NIV) says, “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? ... you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ...”

a. According to these verses what causes discord or quarrels in your family?

b. Based on the verses above and James 4:4-8, and 2 Timothy 2:24-25 What is the answer to quarrels?



Of One Mind

“Step one honestly is completely yielding your heart to the Lord. Period. And then being selfless towards your family” – Bill (8:14).

6. Read Philippians 2:3-4 and James 4:10. Where do you see selfless-ness in your family? How does that benefit your family?

7. Re-read Philippians 2:3-4. Where do you see selfishness in your family? How does that damage your family?

8. A famous motto says, “United we stand, divided we fall.” What does God say about unity in these verses from His Word? 2 Chronicles 30:12; Psalm 133:1; John 17:23; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:1,3; Colossians 3:14

Let us remember again from likeminded above. a. Who is it most important we are united with?
Philippians 2:1, 5

b. Why is this unity important?

c. Why is as Bill says “step one ...yielding your heart to the Lord” and as in James 4:10 humility before God important to unity?



God as Guide

“What I’m learning and growing into as a parent – is study my children and understand that they’re perfect in just the way God made them. I can’t make them into what I want them to be. I have to encourage them along the path of the journey that God has set for them. – Novelette (10:35).

“How you direct them and how you guide them into allowing God to lead them is a direct reflection of how I ultimately allow Him to lead me” – Bill (11:00).

It is an awesome task to be called a parent. The Person (God) who has called you is the Person (God) who is validating you. You don't need anybody else to validate whether you are doing a good job or not. – Bill (11:20)

He's with you when you want to give up. He is with you when you personally feel like you don't have the answer. – Novelette (11:40)

As long as you are being the best child of God and accepting what he has called you to do, accepting his call on your life, then he will instruct how to teach and how to instruct and how to love - Bill (11:50)

He will equip you. He will instruct you just as you are willing to submit to Christ, and have him lead and guide you for your own personal life, he will lead and guide you on how to raise the child or children that you have. - Novelette (12:08)

9. Have you have decided to follow Christ? If so, do you trust Christ to guide you for you and your family? Along with the quotes above, what are these verses saying to you Luke 5:27-28; Psalm 32:8-9? What from the verse is critical to be able to follow God or be lead or guided by God?

You've been called by God to be a parent. It's an awesome task. It's an awesome gift. If you will allow Him to lead you and guide you in your own personal life, He will lead you and guide you on how to parent.

Take a moment to reflect on what you've heard God say to you in this session about what your next steps are as a parent and jot them down.



If you'd like to talk with God about your family, below is a sample prayer:

Father, I'd like there to be peace and unity in my home, not discord. Help us to be selfless versus selfish. Help us love you and be likeminded with you, building unity with you and strength to overcome the world's empty temptations. God, please, fill our family and our home with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Thank you for this awesome task and gift of my family. Help me to have the courage to follow you where you lead me, so that I can lead my family well as I do this thing called parenting. As Psalm 25:4-5 says, I pray, "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Amen.



Dedicate your Family and Parenting to Jesus

Parent Compass wants to give you the opportunity to dedicate (or re-dedicate) your parenting to Jesus Christ during these sessions. If this is something you'd like to do, please go to: Dedicate Your Family and Parenting to Christ in this workbook or www.parentcompass.tv/dedicate/

If you want to know Jesus personally, please go to: Know Christ in this workbook or online at www.parentcompass.tv/know-christ/. To internet chat with someone about Christ, please click on the blue "chat" button in the lower right corner on each page of the website (<http://www.parentcompass.tv/>).