

FAMILY MONTH week 1

**These questions are for your growth and to prepare for the conversation in your Growth Group. We encourage you to read through them, spend some time thinking about your responses and write down anything that could aid in your Group. We also encourage you dig deeper, research, look for supporting Scriptures, etc. We are excited for your growth relationally and spiritual.

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Series Overview: We all want to have happy, healthy, life-giving families. But how do we get there? How can we stop comparing ourselves to the lives we imagine everyone else is living, and instead focus on becoming the best family we can be? What would that look like? How would you even start that conversation? We're going to tell you. And we believe what you'll learn in these 4 short weeks just might change the course of your family forever (no matter what your "family" looks like).

//TALK

Ice Breaker - You can only go to one concert, who do you go see perform "live"? [current or past performers]

Q1 - Can you think of a situation when things got heated in your family, and everyone was talking/yelling all at the same time over one another; everyone demanding to be heard, no one listening to anyone else? How did it work out? Was it ever really resolved? What could have made it better?

Q2 - The statement was made, "**When everyone in the room believes they're the smartest one in the room, everyone will talk, but no one will listen.**" Do you agree or disagree? Do you think this leads to a bigger need, the need of validation?

Q3 - Read **James 1:19**. [read in a couple different versions] What stands out to you in these verses? Why do you think James is giving these details of how to handle things that are so "unnatural" for us?

Q4 - The statement was made, "**If an all-knowing God isn't too good to stop and listen and validate other perspectives, why would you be?**" Do you agree or disagree? How can we push against this natural tendency?

Q5 - Read **Proverbs 4:7**. [read in a couple different versions] What stands out to you in this verses? Ultimately, what is the author, the wisest man to live, trying to pass along to us? How can you apply this tomorrow?

Q6 - Of the 4 Active Listening tips: Be attentive, Give cues to show you hear them, Ask clarifying questions, and Validate then reply; which do you need to work on the most?

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//GO DEEPER

Additional Scriptures to read and discuss: **Read Matthew 13:55-56 & Proverbs 12:16.**

[Where is the hardest place to be heard? Often it is within our own families and close friendship circles. Our families come with baggage, history, long memories, and short fuses. Some also come with an amazing capacity to forgive. If your idea of family and "listening" are hard to imagine, consider breaking the chain.]

//THE POINT

My happiness is less about ME being right than it is about US being right.

//MEMORIZE

James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

//PRAY

As you share prayer requests, take time to personally make requests known in an honest and safe environment. Encourage everyone to write down requests and to pray during the week. Please pray for the continued connection of South Hills Church to our community and especially to first-time guests during this Family Month series.