

The Family: God's Greenhouse for Transformation

Module 2 - Intentionality in the Home
Class 5

Developing an Appetite for God

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Psalm 34:8

Discussion Question

Creating an Appetite

Luke 15:14–19

[14] And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. [15] So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. [16] And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.


[17] “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! [18] I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. [19] I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’”

Proverbs 9:1-6

- [1] Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- [2] She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
- [3] She has sent out her young women to call
from the highest places in the town,
- [4] "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
To him who lacks sense she says,
- [5] "Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- [6] Leave your simple ways, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

1 Timothy 4:6

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained [lit. *nourished*] in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

A dark blue t-shirt is laid flat on a light-colored wooden surface. The t-shirt has a crew neck and short sleeves. In the center of the chest, there is a two-line text print in a white, monospaced, typewriter-style font. The text reads "IF PAUL WERE HERE," on the first line and "WE'D BE GETTING A LETTER" on the second line. To the left of the t-shirt, there is a brown notebook and a white notepad with a black pen resting on it. To the right, a white mug is partially visible.

IF PAUL WERE HERE,
WE'D BE GETTING A LETTER

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

Hebrews 5:11-14

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Ephesians 4:11–14

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Colossians 1:28

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Summary

If we desire to develop an appetite for God in our children, there's no substitute for having an appetite for God in ourselves.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalm 19:7–11

[7] The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
[8] the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

[9] the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
[10] More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.
[11] Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Introducing Spiritual Food

Make eating a “we” activity.

- And less of an “I’m feeding you” activity
- Are we “eating together” spiritually?
- Realize it’s always a “we” activity
- What are we actually eating? Individually or in front of our children?
- Stay away from puffs and pouches - they are cheating. Spiritual food takes effort

The Picky Eater and Appetite Cycles

Our calling and God's sovereignty

Look for the appetite cycles

- Can we learn to be attentive to the moments of spiritual appetite that are happening in the lives of our child?
- Can we pray to understand their hearts to perceive the spiritual need?
What food is their heart starved for?
- Can we find the moments they crack the door open and are receptive to spiritual food?
- Are we ready, in season and out of season, to step up and talk about the grace of God?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

[1] For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, [2] and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] and all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

John 6:53–58

[53] So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. [55] For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. [56] Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. [57] As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. [58] This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” (ESV)

1 Peter 2:2–3

[2] Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—[3] if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
(ESV)