

Leader's Guide

Strengthening the Family

Monday PM Teaching

Dr. Marcus Warner

June 1, 2026

Leader's Note

This week is a little different from our typical discussion format. Rather than processing a Sunday sermon, we are drawing from Session 3 of Dr. Marcus Warner's recent teaching and allowing Scripture to guide our conversation.

The goal is not for everyone to understand all of the concepts that were presented. Instead, use these questions as a starting point to explore biblical principles related to healthy relationships, emotional maturity, listening well, encouragement, and cultivating joy in our families.

As you facilitate, keep bringing the conversation back to Scripture. Encourage people to share their experiences. Focus on the practical question: How can we become more Christlike in the way we listen, respond, encourage, and care for one another?

Opening Question

Think about someone who makes you feel genuinely seen, heard, and valued. What do they do that creates that feeling?

Transition:

Many of us can identify people who make us feel safe, understood, and cared for. Tonight we'll explore what Scripture teaches about becoming those kinds of people for others.

QUESTION 1

Read James 1:19-20.

Why do you think being "quick to listen" is often harder than being quick to speak or quick to solve a problem? What does this passage teach us about strengthening relationships?

Teaching Point

Most people listen to respond rather than listening to understand. James reminds us that wisdom begins with slowing down. Listening is an act of humility because it requires us to set aside our assumptions and focus on another person.

Follow-Up Prompts

- What usually makes you stop listening?
 - Are you more likely to interrupt, offer advice, defend yourself, or withdraw?
 - When have you felt truly listened to by someone?
 - How did that affect your relationship with them?
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QUESTION 2

Dr. Warner suggested that people often need to feel understood before they are ready to receive solutions. When have you experienced the difference between someone trying to fix a problem and someone taking time to understand what you were feeling?

Teaching Point

Jesus frequently connected with people before correcting them. Understanding does not necessarily mean agreement. It means communicating, "I see you. I hear you. You matter."

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why do you think many of us rush to fix things?
 - When someone immediately gives advice, how does it affect your willingness to receive it?
 - Have you ever realized later that what someone needed was empathy rather than a solution?
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QUESTION 3

Read Philippians 2:3-4.

What does it look like to genuinely consider the interests, concerns, and emotions of others? How can humility improve communication within families and friendships?

Teaching Point

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility creates space for curiosity. Instead of assuming we know why someone reacted the way they did, we become interested in their experience.

Follow-Up Prompts

- When was a time someone showed genuine curiosity about your experience? How did that impact you emotionally? What gets in the way of curiosity during conflict?
 - Why is it difficult to consider another person's perspective when emotions are high?
 - How might humility change a recent disagreement you've experienced?
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QUESTION 4

Read Ephesians 4:29-32.

Which of Paul's instructions stands out to you most? How can our words either create distance in relationships or help build connection and trust?

Teaching Point

Words do more than communicate information; they shape relationships. Encouragement, kindness, and grace help people feel safe. Harshness, contempt, and criticism often create emotional distance.

Follow-Up Prompts

- Which of Paul's commands comes most naturally to you?
 - Which one is most challenging?
 - Can you think of words someone spoke that strengthened you during a difficult season?
 - What kinds of words tend to damage trust?
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QUESTION 5

Read Colossians 3:12-14.

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love are all relational qualities. Which one do you find easiest to demonstrate? Which one do you most want God to develop in you as you seek to strengthen your relationships?

Teaching Point

Spiritual maturity is not measured merely by knowledge but by Christlike character. These qualities grow as we walk with Jesus and intentionally practice them in everyday relationships.

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why did you choose that particular quality?
- Where do you most need that quality right now?

- What relationship might look different if God grew that quality in you?
 - What practical step could you take this week?
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Closing Application

Invite everyone to reflect on this question:

What is one relationship where God may be inviting you to listen more carefully, respond more graciously, or build greater connection?

Encourage group members to identify one simple action they can take this week.