



Do you truly love Me? Care for and feed My lambs and sheep

A Family Discipling Process – Part 2 of 2

(See previous issue of SDMI Connections for Part 1)

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Is the COVID-19 experience strengthening or diminishing your intentional teaching and training of your family?¹ This exercise, combined with the [previous one](#) in the last issue of [SDMI Connections](#), will help strengthen your family's growth in Christlikeness.

Some of Jesus' questions, including, "Do you truly love Me more than these?" can be of great help as you disciple your family in Christlikeness.² Children and parents can make serious Kingdom progress by repeatedly practicing the following process.

To begin, one family meeting can be dedicated to studying John 21:1-17.³ The father (or the chosen designee) will read the passage before everyone discusses each paragraph of John 21:1-17.⁴ Then ...

1. Father asks:
 - a. "Why do you think Peter loved Jesus?" (Listen and honor answers until question is sufficiently answered to parents' satisfaction.)
 - b. "Why did Jesus ask Peter three times to care for and feed Jesus' lambs and sheep?" (Answer: To expose Peter's authentic but immature love for Jesus)

¹ Ephesians 6:4

² For full explanation, see my book, *Disciplined by Jesus*.

³ Could be done during or after dinner or before bed. Gathering a family to talk about Jesus, and with Him, is far, far better when parent has conceived of a positive, honoring, sensitive way to meet as family.

⁴ Or, all who read could be asked to study the story beforehand. Then the facilitator asks questions about each part of story until the story is adequately told by family members.

- c. "What might be some reasons Peter loved Jesus?" (Listen and honor answers until question is sufficiently answered to parents' satisfaction.)
 - d. "Do any of us love Jesus?" (Give time needed for response.) "Why?" (Give time needed for response.)
 - e. "How likely is it that Jesus wants us to care for and feed His lambs and sheep?" (Wait for response) "Why?" (Give time needed for response.)
 - f. "Who are Jesus' lambs and sheep?" (Lost sheep, found sheep, family members, me.)
 - g. "What are some specific ways we could care for and feed each group of Jesus' sheep?" (Give time needed for response.)
2. The father prays or asks someone to pray that the whole family grow in their care for and feeding of Jesus' sheep.

The next time your family meets, the father could facilitate the meeting as follows:

1. The father begins the conversation by saying something like: "I would love for us to have a conversation about our love for Jesus. Let's start by answering a question that Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you truly love Me?' Key: be honest. Tell us about your love for Jesus, and if possible, tell us why you love Jesus." Patiently wait for answers. Don't be afraid of the silence. This gives the Holy Spirit opportunity to speak to us.
2. Follow the previous question with: "Does everyone recognize that Jesus is with us? Lord, I will talk to You for all of us. You are here, and listening. We need to answer Your question about our love for You. Who will answer?" (Wait for any or all to respond.)
3. Father: "Because of our love for Jesus, which of Jesus' lambs or sheep should we intentionally care for today or this week? (Allow time as needed for response.) How? (Give time needed for response.) When?" (Wait as needed for response.) Answers will probably be slow in coming. Be patient. The parent may need to be the first to tell about one of Jesus' sheep he/she will specifically care for.
4. Have someone conclude the meeting by praying that God will help everyone take better care of Jesus' sheep. John 11:26
5. Ask the family to report progress at next meeting. Mark 6:30

The next family meeting can address Jesus' question, "Do you understand what I have done for you?"⁵
John 13:12

⁵ See previous article _____