

SESSION 2: **KEEP LEARNING**

▶ **GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We created this guide to help you discuss Jim's content in a group setting. Discussion is a great way to personalize his material for your parenting. To help you get the most out of this guide, here are a few tips to keep in mind.

FOR THE FACILITATOR/LEADER:

BE PREPARED. As the discussion facilitator, you should spend a few moments preparing for your group's time together. Use this time to read the chapter(s) in the book, watch the video, think through the principles, and read the discussion questions. Consider using the following schedule (for a 60-minute session). Take more time if you have some to spare.

- ▶ Hang out and reconnect—or eat a meal together!
15-20 minutes
- ▶ Watch the video.
5-10 minutes
- ▶ Discuss as a group.
15-30 minutes

BE CHOOSY. We've provided a lot of questions—probably too many for your group to discuss in one meeting. The questions ought to be a launchpad for conversation, so pick the questions that best fit your group. Don't feel any pressure to "get through" all of them; the goal for your time together is not to answer every question. If you come up with your own questions, that's great too!

FOR EVERYONE IN THE GROUP:

BE RISKY. The best discussions are open and honest, and sometimes this means taking a risk by sharing something personal. Even though this isn't easy, it's a good thing! Authenticity is always the best teacher.

BE SAFE. If a group isn't safe, no one will take a risk and share something personal. Safe groups are accepting of others even when there is disagreement. Safe groups also don't try to fix one another. Most of the time, a person is not looking for a solution; they just need their feelings validated.

Finally, confidentiality is essential. What's shared in the group stays in the group!

BE CONSISTENT. Make a commitment to meet every week. Life is busy for everyone, but making a weekly meeting a priority will have the greatest impact.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PRINCIPLE THREE: YOU CAN'T IGNORE YOUR CHILD'S CULTURE.

- Do you struggle to understand your adult child's culture? In what ways? What feels foreign?
- How do the cultural differences between you and your child either enhance your relationship or construct a barrier? Try to be as specific as you can.
- Do you spend more time trying to get your children to understand your point of view or trying to understand their point of view? Share about a time when their point of view made more sense than yours.
- Do you often see your way of doing things as "better" or "the right way"? Is it ever difficult for you to let go of the "my way is the best way" mentality?
- Are you surprised by this session's four cultural distinctives that define your child's generation? Which ones in particular?
 - They are shaped by technology
 - They don't live to work; they work to live
 - They want a healthy marriage and family
 - They consider tolerance an essential trait of a loving person.
- Do you ever project your young adult years onto that of your adult child's? Do you find yourself saying things like, "When I was your age. . .," or, "That's not how I did it?" How might such wording be helpful? Harmful?
- Review Jeffrey Arnett's points on "Emerging Adulthood." Which "age" resonates with your Child the most?
 - Identity exploration
 - Instability
 - Self-focus
 - Feeling in-between
 - Possibilities and optimism
- Do you ever feel like you compromise your values when you seek to understand your adult child's values that are perhaps different than yours? Give an example of what this might look like.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE BOOK

What, if anything, in your adult children's culture has surprised you? How is their culture different from yours when you were their age?

Do you tend to agree or disagree with this generation's view that tolerance is an essential trait of a loving person? If your worldview is that there are some absolute truths, what traits would you consider to be essential in a loving person?

Many parents have identified pornography and cohabitation as two of the biggest changes in today's culture. What is your experience of these "cringe factor" issues? What other cringe factor issues concern you about this generation of young adults and about your children?

Where are your children when it comes to the "faith factor?" How do they view the church and their faith?

Describe your experience of the "messy middle." What does it mean for you to hold on to a solid

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

This section is for those who would like to think about the content from a Christian point of view.

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).

- How does this verse help you become a student of your adult child’s culture?

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2 ESV).

- How would a renewed focus on “things that are above” help you navigate your relationship?