**Family Matters part 1 – Faith Begins at Home Leader notes**

1. **Then and Now Family Picture:** Have every individual in the group draw a stick figure picture of their family, showing the number of brothers and sisters growing up, including a family pet, and favorite room in the house growing up. Draw a second picture showing the current family, including children and grandchildren. Have each person share their picture with the group.

**2. What would you say was the most important value in your family growing up? How has that value stayed the same or changed in your current family?**

**3. What is the greatest command in the Bible? (Deut. 6:5). How do you express your love for God?**

**4. What’s the most difficult part of parenting for you?**

**5. Read Deut. 6:6-9. Passing a living and vital faith on to our children and grandchildren is a key task of parenting. What are some of the ways that we can effectively influence the faith of our children and grandchildren?**

(Show an example of godly faith; initiate faith talks with your children; structure a time of Bible reading and prayer together; memorize Scripture together; capitalize on God sightings and teachable moments; Do the truth together by do a service project together; develop a family motto or mission statement; use pictures, art, or symbols to remember family values; celebrate rites of passage; write out your spiritual autobiographies; go to church together; send children to Bible camp; buy Christian books or CD’s; other...)

**6. What’s the last God sighting you’ve had in your family?**

**7.** **What attempts to influence faith the faith of your children haven’t been effective? What has been effective to get God’s commands on their hearts (Deut.6:6)?**

**8. How does our spiritual influence change as children grow older?** (We need to become less directive of the spiritual growth requirements and more interactive with the evolving faith of our youth).  **Is it ever too late to influence our children and grandchildren?** (grandparents were listed in the top 5 spiritual influences of youth by 30% of youth who responded).

**9. Pastor Perry talked about reverse engineering the process of passing on a living faith. What did he mean by that?** (children can influence the spiritual condition of their parents in a positive way). **How have you been able to positively influence your parents toward a closer relationship with God?**  (Make sure your own faith is living and vital; initiate faith talks with your parents; pray for your parents; don’t assume they’ve heard it all before; keep trying.)

**10. Pray!** Spend some time praying about the spiritual condition and needs of your children, grandchildren and your parents, especially those who don’t yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Don’t forget to pray for spiritual vitality of your own soul, that you would press in to seek God’s face and obey everything he tells you to do.