



- No circus is a **one-maned** show.

For single parents:

- Be willing to **share your load** with people that love you.

For all of us:

- Be willing to **share the load** of those that need you.

Help carry each other's burdens. In this way you will follow Christ's teachings. Galatians 6:2 (GWT)

Religion that God accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence. James 1:27 (NCV)

God is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows... Psalm 68:5 (NIV)

- Every circus, and family, needs a **Ring Master**.

Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. 1 Corinthians 6:19 (TLB)

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

- A Christ centered home reflects Christ centered **lives**.

Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

- **Who** is most **important** in my life?

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ. Philippians 3:8 (MSG)

- **Whom** do I **Love** most in my life?

Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Luke 14:26 (MSG)

What it means to be a Christ centered family:

- We have to establish the **standard** for our lives.

...choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

- It is the **parent's** privilege to **lead** their children.

Point your kids in the right direction and when they're old they won't be lost. Proverbs 22:6 (MSG)

Listen, ...The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength. Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children. Talk about

them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up. Deut. 6: 4-7

- Don't allow the **standard** to become just a **motto**.

Jesus answered him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (GWT)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

- The standard is a **personal** relationship with **Jesus**.

Also, What it means to be a Christ centered family:

- We experience **Jesus** together.

Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. Malachi 2:15 (NLT)

Action Steps:

We experience Christ in our homes through:

- Our **Words**.

Don't use harmful words... Use only helpful words, the kind that build up... Ephesians 4:29 (GNT)

Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her. Ephesians 5:25-26 (MSG)

- Our **prayers**.

Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: "Papa, Father, you can—can't you —get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do you want?" Mark 14:35-36

- Our **obedience**.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

"If you love me, you will obey my commands. John 14:15 (NCV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Did you grow up in a Christ centered family? How was Jesus the center of your home?
- How would you personally define a Christ centered home? Why is a home centered on Christ important to the family structure?
- How did you answer the question: "Who is most important in my life?" and does it reflect "Whom you love most"? Is there evidence that this claim is true in your life?
- Why is a standard important for our home? What is your standard? How is that standard shared within the family?
- What is the difference between a standard and a slogan? How do we prevent our standard from becoming a slogan?
- Do you feel that, as a family, you experience Christ together in your home? Explain.
- How do our words, prayers and obedience establish Christ at home?
- In what area do you feel God is asking you to give more attention?

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Today's Talk..



**“The Ring
Master”**