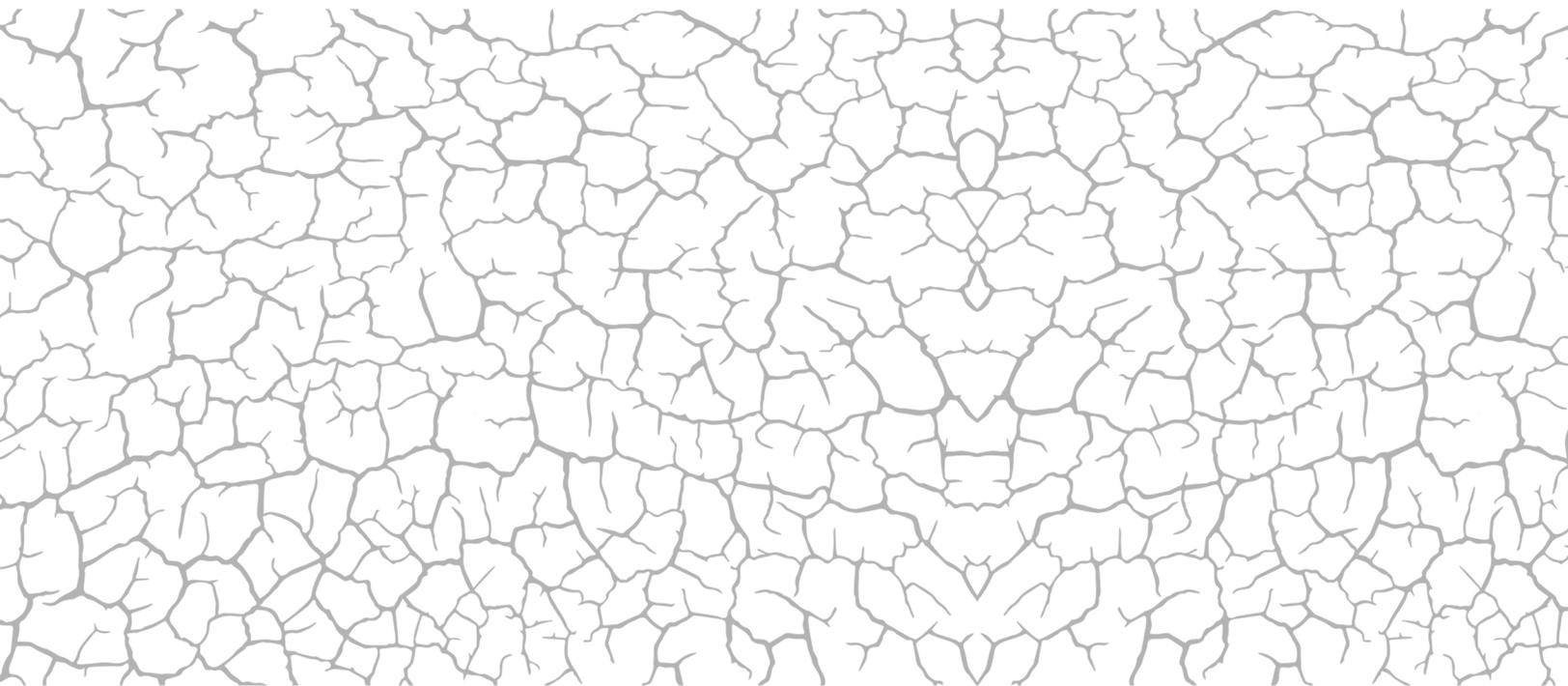




FAMILIES BUILT ON THE ROCK

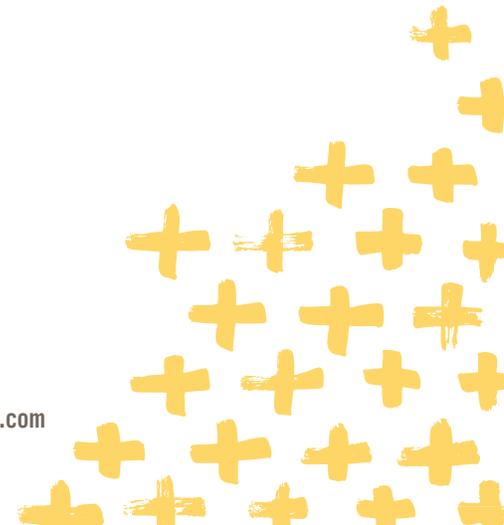
SOLID GROUND

THE CRITICAL HOUR • CLAIM • RAISE • BUILD • CAST • FOUND • LEAD ME FATHER



WHAT IS SOLID GROUND?

Solid Ground – A Model for Family Discipleship is a project of the WELS Northern Wisconsin District's commission on discipleship. This work is presented as 5 modules which focus on equipping and empowering fathers and mothers to be primary in discipling their children in Christ in the areas of Family Culture (Claim), Parenting (Raise), Spiritual Conversations (Build), Marriage (Cast), and the Proper Place of the Church (Found) utilizing the Divine Service as an outline and pattern for family life with a particular emphasis on the Means of Grace. These 5 modules are bookended by an introductory and exit presentations, where the former presents a practical overview of Solid Ground and the importance of worship called: The Critical Hour and the latter offers a final exit interview which reflects on Solid Ground, providing next steps, and needed accountability for the home called: Lead Me, Father. This material is accompanied by implementation strategies which seek to complement every congregational size and setting, capitalizing on whatever youth ministry offerings or schools are available as onramps into Solid Ground. This material is scheduled to be made available at myfamilytable.org as of September 2022 without cost and in such a way that it can be utilized in traditional Bible study formats, small groups, retreats, or independent learning.



“THE CRITICAL HOUR OF WORSHIP IS THE PATTERN FOR FAMILY LIFE”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 1/6

Jot down what you think the root issues are in our world today driving our children to despair and all of us away from God? What do you think some solutions may be? Write that down too. And if you're working through this with others, take a few minutes and share your thoughts.

Come up with examples of these two problems families often fall into...

- 1) Pigeonholing Faith -
- 2) Outsourcing Religious Instruction -

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).

Take Away: Not being fully engaged in our faith life and not leading our children to effectively be the same every waking hour results in being overwhelmed by struggles and not having complete joy.

“LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 2/6

Take a few minutes and jot down three things that make you and your family you. If you are doing this with others, share with whatever time you have left. Celebrate the awesome things in your family!

How is Jesus central to each of the major things which define your family life? If you are unsure, take a moment and strategize how he could be. Because, just as the hour of worship is all about Jesus, so your family life which is your true spiritual worship is to be all about Jesus too.

Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1).

Take Away: Just as the critical hour of worship is all about Christ, so our entire Family Life is to all be about Christ.

“IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON +, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 3/6

As you consider the nature of God and his work and all he is as beautifully summarized in his name – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, what encouragement and guidance do you receive for your parenting?

“[God] made them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union. And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.” (Malachi 2:15)

Consider the summary of God’s name which we were baptized into, cling to in Confession and Absolution, and which is explained so wonderfully in the Apostles’ Creed. What virtues do you see in Him which he uses in raising us as his children? Come up with two virtues from the Father, two from the Son, and two from the Holy Spirit which, of course, we wish to instill in our children. Then, journal or discuss with others.

WORD BANK OF VIRTUES: selflessness, love, affection, devotion, gratitude, caring, reputable, confidence, peacefulness, honorable, graciousness, courage, persistence, reverence, curiosity, worthiness, earnest, faithfulness, diligence, generosity, modesty, discipline, grace, responsibility, helpfulness, humility, goodwill, impartiality, excellence, restraint, integrity, intelligence, joyfulness, steadfastness, kindness, hopefulness, loyalty, mercy, gentleness, enthusiasm, accountability, honesty, patience, morality, bravery, resilience, perseverance, forgiveness, purity, reliability, dignity, contentment, focus, resourcefulness, tenderness, respectfulness, discretion, self-discipline, purposefulness, creativity, frugality, wisdom, sensitivity, concern, sincerity, strength, justice, zeal, cooperation, sympathy, tact, trustworthiness, compassion, truthfulness, understanding, orderliness

Top Virtues from God:

Of the Father: _____ AND _____.

Of the Son: _____ AND _____.

Of the Holy Spirit: Certain knowledge of _____ AND _____.

Take Away: Just as the critical hour of worship regularly restores us in our relationship with the Father and we see how he parents us by grace, so we find a way to be in relationship with our children and parent them.

“THE WORD IN WORSHIP MODELS THE WORD IN THE HOME AND LIFE”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 4/6

Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching (1 Timothy 4:13).

Time for another exercise. Write down your favorite parts about Scripture Readings, the Sermon, and Prayer in church. What are your favorite Scriptures to hear on any given Sunday? Finally, what resonates with you concerning prayer. Come up with a favorite thing for each category: Readings, Sermons, Prayers. Share your thoughts.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts... (Colossians 3:16).

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them... (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

What impression do children have in seeing Dad and Mom read the Scripture at home? What situations do you face in family life where parents could apply Scripture? What blessings do children experience in hearing Mom and Dad pray for them and model that? Share.

What are the obstacles that get in the way of families having spiritual conversations and experiences in the home and in the world in which they live?

Take Away: Just as we gather around the Word and the Sermon applies it to our lives for which we respond in prayer, so too the Word is to enter and be applied to our everyday conversations and experiences with prayer.

“COMMUNION ILLUSTRATES THE IDEAL RELATION OF MALE AND FEMALE IN MARRIAGE”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 5/6

As you consider Christ, the ideal man and bridegroom at the wedding feast of Holy Communion and as you consider, the ideal woman, the Bride of Christ, his Holy Church, and as you consider that every marriage is to be an image of that sacred union of God and his people (Ephesians 5:31-32), tell me some things which are critical for your family to grasp? In other words, what’s a man? What’s a woman? And what does it take to make a marriage last and be beautiful?

“For this reason a man will leave his father and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. This is a mystery. But I am talking about Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Take Away: Embedded in the Lord’s Supper is a picture of the ideal man, ideal woman, and marriage – what it should be and what it takes to make a marriage work.

“THE CHURCH IS HERE TO BLESS YOUR FAMILY AS YOU LEAD YOUR LOVED ONES”

CRITICAL HOUR VIDEO 6/6

“The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with his favor and give you his peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

In your living and in your discipling of your children, are you able to rightly distinguish where a called worker’s work begins and ends in discipling children? And, are you able to see where your work as the universal royal priesthood of believers begins and ends in discipling your children? What does the partnership between called workers and parents look like? Who is primary in discipling children and what’s that work entail? Who is and can only be an assistant or a sidekick in that work and what does that entail? Jot down some thoughts and share.

Take Away: Just as God calls public ministers to bless his people to go into the world to fulfill their callings at the end of worship, so too, called workers are here to bless parents as they return home to carry out the lion’s share of discipling their own children.

