

**Date** : 16 March 2025  
**Theme** : Conversational Equipping (II)  
**Topic** : Talking God's heart and purpose in deep or difficult places:  
(Who am I? Whose am I? What am I here for?)  
**Key Verse** : ... *"Why were you searching for me?" he asked.*  
*"Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (NIV)*  
*...Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*  
*(NKJV) Luke 2:49*

## **Tensions**

At home, we have tensions and disagreements.

Can we build a more constructive approach that proactively addresses these issues?

Today, meet Jesus, Sean, Rob and others who communicated their eternal identity, of belonging in Christ's body (the church), and in pursuing God's heart and purpose.

## **Small group prayer time**

What do you notice about Jesus' responses to his mother when he was

- 12 years old (Luke 2)
- 30 years old (Matthew 12)

The actions (E.G. going back with his parents and obeying them when he was 12 years old) are important, but Jesus' response addressed the deeper issue:

- Who am I? (identity)
- Whose am I? where do I belong? (belonging)
- Why am I here? What am I here for? (purpose)

Use these examples or the questions below to reflect, discuss and pray.

## **Sean's Story** ([truelove.is](http://truelove.is)) and **Lion King** example

- o "That is not who I say you are"  
We perform various identities as need arises, but we have our core, eternal identities. Is my core identity shaped by God's word?  
How has the media I consume shaped how I think of myself, of where I belong and what my core purpose in life is?
- o How am I helping my children discern biblical and non-biblical views about their identities, belonging and purpose, in the media I allow them to consume?

**"shou dang"** the picture of the large metal container and upturned cups, kept away, and water from the tap flowing off (not into the cups.)

- o Is this me? How am I (and my spouse coming together to) receive the Holy Spirit's infilling and guidance each day?
- o Are my many activities subsumed under my eternal identity?
- o How do I view the activities I involve my child in? Do all activities converge under the eternal and ultimate identity of my child in Christ? How can every activity my child participates in be done in ways that teach him to honour the Lord Jesus and his sabbath?

## **Rob Rienow** (*Visionary family Ministries*)

Your thoughts on **Rob's proactive actions with his son, R.W.**

- Studying scripture together to understand God's view of the Sabbath (God's heart and purpose)
- helping him see the value of the Sabbath from God's view, and to grow the conviction to make that costly decision of honouring the Sabbath (not simply mine to use as I please; it is the Lord's Day).

## **Ines. Mark and Sarah** (*Heartbeat project*)

- Listen and learn my Mum/dad's story: what experiences shaped your mum/Dad? While you may not agree with them, knowing what shaped them can help you better understand where they are coming from. And help you to pray for them.
- Mark and Sarah went on a retreat and started a journal documenting their vision and prayers for Ines, for her to become a person who knows God, and who grows in purity and gracefulness.  
How are you (or you and your spouse together) seeking God for your child's/mentee's growth in his/her identity in Christ, belonging to God's family, and pursuit of God's purposes?
- Mark and Sarah's parents efforts to engage multiple times to discern what was right in God's eyes, and what was best for Sarah and Mark.

Questions:

We get upset with our kid's bad behaviour. But how can holding on to who we know they are in Christ, knowing they are part of Christ's Body and that in Christ, they will fulfil their destiny, help us to persevere to teach them at home?

Pray over each difficulty and your plans.

## **Closing song**

*Shepherd of my soul I give you full control,*

*Wherever You may lead I will follow.*

*I have made the choice to listen for Your voice,*

*Wherever You may lead I will go.*

*Be it in a quiet pasture or by a gentle stream,*

*The Shepherd of my soul is by my side.*

*Should I face a mighty mountain or a valley dark and deep,*

*The Shepherd of my soul will be my guide.*