

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

MIR MONROY

Growing up, I was taught in school that the family is the basic unit of society. It is in our respective families that we are provided with food, clothing, and shelter - our basic needs in life. It is also in our family that we ought to feel loved, cared for, and secured.

I thank God for my family. My family may be far from perfect, but I believe that my family is God's gift to me. I trust His judgment on how six different personalities, with different perspectives, are able to choose to love and understand each other, only by His grace.

My parents were pretty much hands on in raising us up. They made sure they were present in all school events; that we get to have new school supplies, shoes, bags, and uniform each school year; that our grades and our well-being in school were good. They acted as mediators when we fought as siblings and taught us to forgive those who hurt us. They taught us about the Bible and how to pray. These are just some of the important ways they showed their love for us.

But, as time went by and as we went through our respective seasons in life, I personally faced challenges pertaining to my family.

Back in 2014, my dad was called by God to embark on his own missionary journey. At first, it started with two weeks of him being away from home, followed by a month of being in the field and having two weeks of break before

going back to the field again. This cycle went for years but the months wherein my dad needed to stay in the field went longer from a month to three months. Then, after some time, my mom was called to be with my dad in the field wherein they stayed for extended periods until they had the luxury of time to visit us, meaning we didn't get to see them as much, and only my siblings and I lived together, as we provided for our own needs.

Personally, I found it exciting to live without my parents at first as I enjoyed living without the need to seek approval from them, and do the things I loved to do which they did not allow me to do before. But after some time, I realized that I needed them in my life as I faced transitions, challenges, and discouragements, but most of all, I missed their wisdom and spiritual guidance. I can say that physical distance is a huge factor of our communication challenges. But, praise God for His grace as from time to time, we get to be together physically as a family.

I can only imagine how difficult it is for those who have no one to call "parents". A child without proper guidance can be led astray in this broken world. That type of child will probably live in the ways of men and not of God. The call to every parent is to intentionally disciple as it is in our respective homes that we learn our values and first develop a heart for God.

As we live in the digital world wherein everything can be

accessed with just one click, the tendency for the next generation is to seek knowledge from the internet if there will be no one to care to enlighten them. The devil is working double time to lure the next generation into falling for the wrong beliefs. May that reality compel the spiritual leaders at home to step up their game and be intentional in discipling their families.

I challenge all spiritual leaders at home, especially the parents to be present at all costs, all ears to the cry of your child/children and be intentional in becoming a role model after Christ.

At the same time, I challenge all children, whether you are a youth or a young adult, to grow a heart of understanding and respecting your parents as the Bible commands to "honor your father and mother".

I also challenge those who may not have a parent to approach the church leadership so we can journey with you, taking this step as a commitment to God to be disciplined according to the ways of the Lord.

I pray for each and every family in GCF South Metro Church to be the kind of family the Lord desires us to be, and to embrace and exercise spiritual leadership as we make a difference in being very intentional in discipling and raising the next generation to fear God, choose to love God, just as God desires.✠