**How to Help Your Child Feel Loved by God**

**Table discussion:**

*What were the conversations about God like in your family growing up?*

**Group discussion:**

*Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about faith in the home?*

**Point One: Experiencing the love of a parent is the foundation for a child’s spiritual formation**

* What does God passionately want for your child? Life with Him!
  + To know Him. To experience His love. To trust Jesus as their Savior. To be fashioned in the likeness of Christ.
* Where does it begin for a child? Learning they are loved by the way their parent loves them.
* Our model is to love our child the way God loves us!
  + God’s model for us is Christ. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for a friend.” Think of the intensity of God’s love for this child. But wait, when did we ever ask God for help in loving our child?
  + What happens when we didin’t have a model to learn from?

**Table Discussion:**

*What ideas are you now thinking about that you would like to try?*

**Point Two: Love them by entering their world**

* Attentiveness. Looks differently throughout their life. Says, “You matter to me.”
  + Consider how these might differ according to age:
    - Reflecting back what they are communicating
    - Responding to needs
    - Touch
    - Play
    - Words
    - Gifts
    - Expressions and tone of voice
* Connect God’s love to these expressions.
  + Link your actions of love to the truth of God’s love. Examples:
    - During a walk…connect to God’s love shown in creation
    - When playing… “I like playing with you.” “Do you think God likes you as well?”
  + See that loving this child is your spiritual act of service

**Table discussion:**

*What ideas are you now thinking about that you would like to try?*

**Point 3: Love them by respecting their right to choose less than loving responses.**

**giving them what tHow to bless your child and “see the long term picture”**

* + - What do you want to leave your child with by the time he/she leaves your home? Top 3 qualities in their lives.
    - What is a blessing?
    - What does it mean to start praying blessing now?

**Table discussion:**

*What ideas are you now thinking about that you would like to try?*

**Wrap Up Group Discussion:**

*How ought we be praying?*