

DIGGING DEEPER



STUDY GUIDES

**COMMENTARY, QUESTIONS & EXERCISES
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Family Driven Faith

by Voddie Baucham, Jr.

The Purpose of Digging Deeper Study Guides

Digging Deeper Study Guides are designed to help readers get the most out of their reading by focusing attention on understanding the main message of each book studied. Readers are then challenged to wrestle with that message—do they agree or disagree and why—and then ponder, reflect and apply what they are learning.

Individuals and groups will benefit from these study guides, but the best way to get the most out of any book is by doing both. Start by reading and answering the questions alone and then find a friend or two to gather regularly to discuss what each person is learning. The informed and lively discussion by a group of committed readers will take you places that you cannot go alone. This is the great benefit of learning theology within a community.

Why a Study Guide for *Family Driven Faith* by Voddie Baucham

Family Driven Faith is a challenging book that, very likely, will step on your toes. It certainly did mine when I first read it. But whether you agree with Baucham on every point is not the issue. What should be evident, when you finish the book, is that parents are responsible to disciple their own children. This study guide attempts to further the thought and discussion along these lines so that more and more Christian parents will embrace the high calling of raising up descendants who put their hope in the Lord.

Format of the Study Guide for *The Trellis and the Vine*

Page numbers in parenthesis are where suggested answers can be found. This Digging Deeper Study Guide is indexed to the Crossway Books copy of *Family Driven Faith*, published in 2007.

Introduction

1. What's the thesis of this book? (7) Do you agree or disagree?

Chapter 1

1. Voddie discusses three things that our culture tends to value more highly than growing in grace. (19-21) Are these problems as bad as he makes them out to be? What is the solution? Which is (will be) the hardest for you as a parent?
2. Ponder: "If I teach my son to keep his eye on the ball but fail to teach him to keep his eyes on Christ, I have failed as a father." (20) Is it possible to do both—i.e. teach your son to keep his eye on the ball *and* eyes on Christ? If so, how do you do it?
3. Have you ever encountered the "Anti-Marriage" or "Anti-Child" culture? (22-26)
4. Why did the young people react negatively to Voddie's statement about "when did we begin to hate children?" (24) Can you think of other examples where we, as evangelicals, hold to unbiblical assumptions?
5. Where did Voddie find a resource to fight against the idols of our day? (27)

Chapter 2

1. What does it mean that God is a jealous God? What does this have to do with parenting? (32-33)
2. How had Thomas' early life prepared the way for where he ended up? (35)
3. What is the temptation when it comes to choosing between something like sports and Christ? Can you get Christ without the church? (35)
4. Where are you worshipping at the feet of the American dream? (37)
5. What practical advice will you apply from the exposition of Ephesians 5? (38-46)
6. As you build a Christian parenting philosophy, make sure and add these answers to your foundation. Who owns your children? (42) Who is ultimately responsible for the spiritual upbringing of your children? (36) What priority should your marriage have as it relates to your parenting? (47)
7. Why is a couple's marriage more important than their parenting? (47-48)
8. Choose one thing to do from the "Take Action" section on page 48.

Chapter 3

1. How does our culture typically understand “love,” and what are the consequences of such a belief? (52-56)
2. Voddie describes “love” from Deuteronomy 6. Did any of his descriptions surprise you? Challenge or rebuke you? (56-62)
3. Explain: “Love is proved by our efforts?” (60) Is this biblical?
4. Often people say, “I’m not sure I’ll have enough love to go around?” What is wrong-headed about this statement? (63)
5. Learned behavior. Effort. Committed. Plan. This is what the woman in Las Vegas did not see as she observed Voddie and his wife at dinner. What implications do you need to take away from this? What can you plan to do, commit to doing, learn to do or exert effort to do in order to value your spouse? (65-67)
6. Take a look at Questions 2 and 3 in the “Take Action” section on pages 67-68.

Chapter 4

1. What was the goal of Moses giving Israel the Law, and how does this relate to our hearts? (70-71)
2. In your own words, what is meant by the term “worldview?” (72)
3. How does one develop (or get) a worldview? (71)
4. Voddie mentions five basic elements of a worldview. Can you think of examples where the Christian worldview is particularly being attacked today? (76-85)
5. Is there one area where you are weaker in your Christian worldview than in others? What will you do about this weakness?
6. Explain what Voddie meant under the heading “Watch Out for Legalism?” (85)
7. If you have kids that are old enough, try out the first suggestion under the “Take Action” section on page 88.

Chapter 5

1. What's the "profound truth" that makes teaching your kids doable (whether it's the Scriptures or math or how to play a sport)? (93)
2. What is the most basic thing you must give your child? (94, 96)
3. Which benefit of using the Bible most motivated you? (97-98)
4. Besides the Bible, what else is needed to train your kids at home? (104-105)
5. Where will you start to apply this chapter in your life?

Chapter 6

1. What are the goals of the Discipline and Training stage of parenting? (109-112)
2. How does the 5th Commandment relate to God's Family, the church, passing on the Christian faith to the next generation? (118)
3. What caused Voddie and his wife to rethink their schedule, their priorities and everything else? (118-119)
4. What are you trying to accomplish in the Catechism Phase? (119)
5. What's the reality about your child developing a theology if you decide not to catechize (teach) them? (121)
6. What is the goal of the Discipleship Phase? (121)
7. How does education relate to discipleship? (123)
8. Consider doing one of the "Take Action" steps on page 128.

Chapter 7

1. What does it mean to "mark the home as God's territory?" (132)
2. Voddie gives a number of examples in this chapter of "marking the home as God's territory." Is there one or two that you and your spouse might want to try and do at your home?
3. Re-read Arthur Pink's statement on page 136. What are your immediate thoughts as you read his challenge?
4. What is the essence of "family worship?" (137)
5. Which of the seven steps to beginning family worship will be the biggest challenge for your family? (139-142)
6. What benefit of family worship most encourages you? (142-148)

Chapter 8

1. How does John Bunyan's quote on page 149 summarize the problem that plagues much of the Christian world?
2. Is there a bright line when it comes to how Christians handle prosperity? Is that bright line a dollar figure? Something else? How can we guard against the subtle temptations that money often brings with it? (150, 153, 157-158)
3. Does your money have you?
4. What is the difference between a vocation and an idol? (158)
5. One-income/two-income, stay-at-home-mom/work-outside-the-home-mom, etc... what is the main issue to be wrestling with as a husband and wife, father and mother? (164)

Chapter 9

1. Voddie uses a number of different statistics about youth (in this chapter and the entire book) to support his claim that the church is in trouble. Is there one statistic that you find particularly telling?
2. What are three significant problems with the current "youth group" approach? (179-182)
3. What is the most determinative factor for whether a youth continues in the faith after high school graduation? (182)
4. Which "Take Action" suggestion on page 190 should you seek to do as a father and mother?

Chapter 10

1. What is the difference between a "family based" and a "family integrated" church? (193-195)
2. What is Voddie's suggested solution for getting men to be the spiritual leaders of their families and involved in the church? (196-197) How can you help your church equip, expect and encourage the men of the congregation in this way?
3. How can wonderful churches actually work against the family? (205)
4. What lesson does Voddie illustrate from the word of the Islamic Sheikh? (207-208)
5. What is the key to reformation according to Richard Baxter? (213)