

The Four Priorities Chapter 18

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Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 18: The Parenting Gift of Identity

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

**Open
(10 min.)**

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Do: Open in prayer.

**Recap
(5 min.)**

Briefly give a summary of your meeting last week. We discussed:

- How impactful having a father in our lives can be, either positively or negatively.
 - As children, we need to have a sense of belonging, appropriate boundaries, a moral framework, and an emotional connection with our family.
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**Opening –
Identity
(10 min)**

Ask: Based on the introduction on page 179, how have the following people and/or things shaped how you see yourself? (Read those paragraphs if you need a refresher.)

- Your parents
- Your peers
- Culture
- How well do you accept Psalm 139:14, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Say: On the next pages, we will look at **four actions** that mirror a healthy identity: unconditional love, affirming worth, acknowledging uniqueness, and appreciating a child’s presence.



**Love
Unconditionally**
pgs. 179-181
(15 min.)

Ask: How did you feel loved growing up? Did it feel *conditioned* upon your performance, or were you simply loved for who you were? (share)

Say: Unconditional love means caring for someone with full acceptance without expecting anything in return. According to the book *The Five Love Languages*, there are typically five ways people feel loved. While all five are important, going without one of these five “love languages” can leave one feeling unloved and unvalued.

- **Discuss** your findings from this portion of the chapter.
 - **Ask:** Which love language category would you say makes you feel most loved?
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Affirm worth,
(15 min.)

Say: In this section, there are four areas that contribute to a person's sense of worth. Let's discuss our findings in these areas.

- Receiving affection
- Feeling wanted
- Receiving hugs
- Feeling appreciated

Ask: How have you personally found these things to be true for yourself and others?

Do: Take a moment today to be intentional in showing someone you love the affirmation of their worth in one of these four ways.

**Acknowledge
uniqueness,**
(5 min.)

Ask:

What is one thing that stood out to you in this section?

How would you say God made/makes you unique? (share)

**Appreciate
presence,**
(15 min.)

Ask: Has anyone in your life appreciated your presence? If so, who was it and what did they do to make you feel appreciated?

Do: Ask each other one of the “What if” questions. (give good eye contact and be engaged in their answer)

Take Action
(30 min.)

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

If the scriptures were not read during their homework, select one scripture from each section to read out loud together.

Close
(5 min.)

Homework:

- This week, select one of the scriptures from the Take Action section and encourage someone you know with it.
- Read Chapter 19 (and referenced scriptures in the Bible) and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Close in prayer.