



# Business Leadership Group Discussion & Application Guide

Dennis Rainey, Building Courageous Families –Session 1 of 4

Dennis begins his talk with the comment that “We [mankind] by nature, are not good with three key relationships: God, our spouses and our kids. Before our time together is done, I want to stimulate you to love and good deeds in those three areas.” He goes on to suggest a starting point as a context for what is to follow. “What is the most courageous thing you have ever done in your life?” [answer and discuss with your group—*consider his definition for courage: doing your duty in the face of fear*]

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Do you think that culture is negatively impacting our courage as followers of Christ? [explain your thoughts to your group]

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“There is no greater feeling exhilaration than to be shot at and missed.” Ronald Reagan, as quoted by Dennis Rainey. Have you ever experienced a near miss with death that made you give deep thought to your purpose here on earth? [share your thoughts]

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Select an idea or concept from today’s talk that would make the most impact or warrants immediate attention and answer the following questions:

1. Should I apply this concept or practice to my business or personal life?
2. Can I commit to a schedule to implement this application? [explain and discuss with the group, if necessary]

Comment:

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Development Objectives:

Life, Leadership, Excellence, Kingdom

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. Proverbs 23:7a NKJV



# Business Leadership Group Discussion & Application Guide

Dennis Rainey, Building Courageous Families –Session 2 of 4

**“Courage is doing your duty in the face of fear—in the face of obstacles.”** Dennis Rainey

“Our homes must be built upon the foundation of a covenant, a *promise kept*.” Dennis highlighted many ways that the breakdown of marriage has negatively impacted culture. What stands out in your mind as an example of marriage breakdown’s impact? [this can be personal, third party or cultural; but the closer you are to your example, the more value it will bring to the discussion & application]

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Dennis moves from *promises kept* to *forgiveness* as foundational to building courageous families. His definition of *forgiveness is: Giving up the right to punish another*. There are 5 common definitions of forgive, why do you think Dennis settled on this one associated with releasing someone from punishment? [explore this with you group and be prepared to share an experience that either validates or challenges his definition]

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Dennis closes out this part of the talk with an invitation to pick up a rose and share it with your spouse. If we had a vase of roses in this meeting room available for you to take back to your spouse to ask for forgiveness, would you take a rose as an offering of sincerity? This moment can be a great time to spur one another on to love and good deeds, in the cause of stronger testimonies & marriages. Share your thoughts with your group...

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Excellence, Kingdom**

Comment:

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A calm and undisturbed mind are the life and health of the body, but envy, jealousy, and wrath are like rottenness of the bones. ~ Proverbs 14:30 AMP

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. Proverbs 23:7a NKJV



***“Moms and Dads today are attempting parenting in a culture that is increasingly hostile to taking a stand for what is right. As a result, a lot of parents are suffering from moral and physical exhaustion.”  
Dennis Rainey***

Dennis breaks down parenting responsibilities into four focal areas: Identify [spiritual and sexual], Character, Relationships and Mission. His reference verse is Deut 6:4-7 [see below] This passage includes a flowing thought from personal devotion, to 24-7 consistent modeling, to thoughtful diligent teaching. Verses 6-9 provide a method for the faith of the Israelites to pass from generation to generation. How are current culture shifts making it increasingly difficult to fulfill this model in our homes?

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In Dennis’ model, *relationship* includes modeling and teaching the next generation how one imperfect person can love another imperfect person. What challenges does the current culture place on young people that could be overcome by modeling and teaching in this way?

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As a business steward, how does this subject spill over into your workplace and how have you responded? How could you better respond?

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Comment:

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“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deut. 6:4-7

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# Business Leadership Group Discussion & Application Guide

Dennis Rainey, Building Courageous Families –Session 4 of 4

**Mission—“Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are the children of one’s youth.” Psalm 127:10**

Dennis uses this passage to promote the idea that children should be aimed; but that ultimately, they must be released. In this context, Mission incorporates both why we do and what we do. Acts 13:36 points to the faithfulness of King David. His life was certainly marked by failures; yet he finished well, and was honored by God. How important do you think it is that a sense of Mission be imparted to our children?

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In the context of your experience as a marketplace leader, how important is it for a worker to have a sense of Mission?

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What one thing stands out from Dennis’ statements that you most value? [consider both your most intimate personal thoughts and your business life]

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Select the topic above that would make the most impact or warrants immediate attention and answer the following questions:

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2. Can I commit to a schedule to implement this application? [explain and discuss with the group, if necessary]

Comment:

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**Development Objectives:**  
Life,  
Leadership,  
Excellence,

“It is the righteous man who lives for the next generation.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matt. 28:19-20

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. Proverbs 23:7a NKJV