



## **BIG IDEA**

The foundation of the church is people with pierced hearts!

## **INTRO TO THE FAMILY GUIDE**

Thank you for opening this guide. We are glad that you've decided to *continue the conversation*. Below you will find discussion questions geared toward adults and families. Whatever unit you are in, we would love for you to interact with each other and dig deeper into what we learned today. If you are alone, feel free to pick up the phone to call, text, or digitally interact with a friend on these questions.

The age-based questions for families cover 4 different stages of life—preschoolers, elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens. Parents, it's always awesome to model vulnerability with your children, so, even though each section does not specifically invite parents to share please do so.

## **SUMMARY FOR THIS WEEK**

In Acts 2 Peter's crucial point is that we are all implicated in crucifying Jesus. Peter wants us to get this. He's asking us to look at something inside of us.

“They were cut to the heart.” A very important truth the church is: its foundation is a people with pierced hearts! If our hearts are not pierced we have nothing. We need to see and own our sin. If we own it then it changes us.

We know our heart is pierced if we respond like the people in Acts. They were open to hearing more about themselves. It's tough to hear the truth about ourselves so we tend not to get feedback. A pierced heart is aware of needing a soft heart and it is humble.

Matt spoke of how he and his family can engage in a worship service and then within a short time be violating love with one another. His conclusion was that their own hearts were “not pierced”. So, how we relate to one another is a crucial diagnostic for our hearts. We love this because none of us can get it “right” unless our hearts are pierced. If our hearts are hard we don’t love well and we don’t want to hear feedback about it.

## **PRESCHOOL**

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt bad about something you did? Maybe you didn’t listen to your parents or you decided not to share with a friend.
2. When you do something that makes you feel bad we call that sin. We all sin and disobey God. The next time you feel bad about something you’ve done, what can you do about that? (Ask God for forgiveness, pray, ask mom or dad for forgiveness etc.)
3. God had a rescue plan all along to save us from our sins. His rescue plan was Jesus! Jesus made a way for our sins to be forgiven so that we could be with God forever!

## **ELEMENTARY**

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt bad about something you did? Tell me a little about that. Did you share this struggle with someone or did you try to hide it etc?
2. We all sin and disobey God. The next time you feel bad about something you’ve done, what can you do about that? (Ask God for forgiveness, pray, ask mom or dad for forgiveness, etc.). Remember the work of the Holy Spirit is already moving when we “feel bad” about something we’ve done. This is a gift to us.
3. Has someone ever done something kind to you that reminded you of what Jesus might do? What is something you can do this week to show Jesus’ love to those around you?

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1. Reflect back on when you first became aware of your personal sin. Describe your story with your family. Remember the work of the Holy Spirit is already moving when we “feel bad” about something we’ve done. This is a gift to us.
2. Try to think of a time when you experienced someone relating to you with a “pierced heart”. Perhaps they apologized for a way they hurt you. Perhaps they were in tears over their sin against you. Share with your family what this experience was like for you.

3. Take some time this week to get specific feedback from one or two people regarding how you might be unloving when you relate to people. Then share with someone close to you the feedback you receive.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Try to think of a time when you experienced someone relating to you with a “pierced heart”. Perhaps they apologized for the way they hurt you. Perhaps they were in tears over their sin against you. Share what this experience was like for you. Contrast this with someone who steadfastly refused to admit they wronged you and refused to make it right.
2. In the sermon today we learned that a pierced heart is a soft heart and it is humble. Discuss how you have cultivated a soft heart. What are the ingredients necessary? What is God’s role and what is our part in it? Share with your family a friend or someone in your small group where you need prayer so that your heart can be “pierced”. Remember the work of the Holy Spirit is already moving when we have awareness about something we’ve done wrong. The desire of our hearts to have a soft heart is also evidence of the work of His Spirit in us. This is a gift to us.
3. Take some time this week to get specific feedback from one or two people regarding how you violate love when you relate to people. Then share with someone close to you the feedback you receive.

## **Adults**

1. Discuss how you have cultivated a soft heart. What are the ingredients necessary? What is God’s role and what is our part in it? Reflect on this with a friend or your family or spouse.
2. None of us can get it “right” unless our hearts are pierced. If our hearts are hard we don’t love well and we don’t want to hear feedback about it. Take some time this week to get specific feedback from one or two people regarding how you violate love when you relate to people. Then share with someone close to you the feedback you receive. Because we are so dependent on the Spirit for any good movement we invite you to consider praying together with a friend, family member or spouse. Be honest with them about the struggle and share with them the desire of your heart in this area.