



WEEK ONE: YOUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD

#uniqueparent



Your relationship with God will be one of the most defining realities of your life as a parent. Let's not sugar-coat things - parenting is a storm. Sure - sometimes the winds are quiet and the waves aren't too high, but often it's not a matter of whether or not we're drowning - but rather how quickly.

Our parenting needs the one who walks on the water, and our lives as parents need to be intimately entwined with the one who allows us to walk on the waves (Mark 4:35-41).

Our goal for this week is to honestly diagnose our current relationship with God. We want to process together what it looks like to have a relationship with God (what does that even mean?!), what hindrances in our life are keeping us from a relationship with God, and how we can pursue a deeper and more personal intimacy with God.

We'll say this a lot during Unique: you might find, in wrestling with and answering these questions, that you don't like your answers. Maybe they're disappointing, or confusing. Maybe you thought you had more clarity, or maybe you think the questions are totally wrong! But be careful: the goal in this study is to get us thinking about our uniqueness as parents. It's to highlight that we're different from one another, but at the same time, 'fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14). None of us have any claim on perfection, arrival, or that we've "made it." Instead, we're all in various stages of being 'transformed into God's image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord' (2 Cor 3:18).

So, as we contemplate the model of Mary and the role of our relationship with God in parenting, extend grace to yourself! Let's wrestle with where we are together, but then let's take intentional steps towards where we want to be together as well.

The next page has a number of questions to ponder and reflect on throughout this week. Read them now (and again later), and think about them during your regular day. As insight strikes or as ideas or answers come to mind, share your thoughts through social media using the hashtag #uniqueparent. We'll wrestle with these things together!

Welcome to Unique!

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Background:

- Make sure you watch Session 1 of Unique before responding to these questions!
- Find some time this week to read through Luke 1:26-56 and consider Mary's relationship with God and confidence in her relationship with God.

Questions:

Use these questions to get your mind thinking about your unique relationship with God. Any insights, questions or answers can be posted online using the hashtag #uniqueparent!

1. What does it mean to have a 'relationship with God?' What's the difference between 'a relationship with God' and a '*personal* relationship with God?'
2. Honesty moment: share the last time you felt you've intentionally, personally invested in your relationship with God (sorry, but for this question, attending church doesn't count). It's ok if it's different than what others might think - you're unique! But what did that investment look like and what were your experiences?
3. If you could change anything about your relationship with God, what would it be? What's the best part, and the worst part about your relationship with God currently?
4. Would you say you're intentionally investing in your relationship with God? Why do you say that?
5. When you think about your role as a parent, do you see it bound up with your relationship with God? Would you say you believe your relationship with God is essential in your role as a parent? Do you think your priorities and patterns reflect that?
6. What's the most unique part of your relationship with God? Is this something you think others could benefit from, or do you think it's specific to you?

Posts

This week, consider engaging with other parents by sharing three posts online.

Don't forget to include the hashtag #uniqueparent!

One: Share a picture or an image that reflects the uniqueness of your relationship with God. What describes your relationship with God? Why?

Two: For Mary, it was her relationship with God and confidence in who God was that allowed her to 'walk on the water' when all of her expectations were falling apart. Start a post on social media with, "When life is falling apart, my relationship with God will..."

Three: What is one change that you would like to make with your daily disciplines, habits, or rhythms that you think would help your relationship with God grow the most? Share online and if you feel comfortable, ask for help and encouragement to make the change!

If you haven't yet, download our app and enable the "Unique Parenting Study" notification channel. It's the best way to get next week's content directly on your phone! Go to the website for the download links!

[PARENTSSUMMIT.COM/](https://parentssummit.com/)



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