Jason Chan

Family Group Ministry Application

**1) How did you come to know Jesus as Lord? \***

In high school, I had a lot of friends of circumstance: my math friends, my track friends, my band friends, etc. My only consistent friend was my best friend Ivy. All throughout high school, we were each other’s comforts through bad tests, hard classes, and messy relationships. I loved Ivy because she was my anchor through the storms of life. When I felt alone or broken, our conversations would remind me that I was worthy of love. It was a selfish relationship because she was just a temporary fix to my loneliness. The summer before college, she became so busy with her job that she couldn’t talk to me. When she couldn’t comfort me, I wanted her to feel as abandoned as I did. My conditional love for her ran out, and I didn’t talk to her for a year because I wanted my best friend to suffer as I suffered.

A person in my first college lecture invited me to JCA, where God provided me with the friends I so desperately needed. I wanted to be around them, not only because of my loneliness, but also because of how they loved, and how I wanted to be loved. Through family group and sermons, I learned about a loving God, and in His love, I saw how imperfect mine was. Where I only loved “deserving” people, God loved indiscriminately. Where I loved because of what people did, God loved because of who He is. Where I turned away from the people that hurt me, God loved us so much that He sent His son down so that we could have victory through Jesus.

As I was experiencing His love, God told me to forgive Ivy, but there wasn’t enough of God’s love in my heart, so God kept working, pursuing me through family group and class relationships. At the end of my freshman year, God had shown me that His love was greater than my loneliness, and for the first time, I felt free. He saved me, and when I went back home, I forgave Ivy.

God’s love is not self-serving, His love keeps no record of wrongs, and His love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. In loneliness, I was hopeless and believed that I wasn’t worthy of love, but in Christ, I have hope in eternal love and eternal redemption. That’s why I’ve decided to give my life to Christ.

**2) Why do you want to be involved in family group ministry?**

Firstly, I want to be in family group ministry because of the family group leaders that I’ve had. They were people who demonstrated sacrificial love to me in how they paid for our meals, gave up their time, and loved their family group members no matter how flawed they were. As a non-Christian in my freshman year, I was blown away by their love that was so selfless and pure. In their love, I saw my first glimpse of what Christ’s love was. In the same way that these people loved me, I want to love on others.

I also want to be involved in family group ministry because God has given me a heart for teaching, and he has also given me a heart for people. God has allowed me to do several teaching and tutoring jobs, and I found those jobs to be tiring but also rewarding. God also convicted me to do many meet ups this semester, and I have been blessed by every single one in being able to build relationships and even learn how my heart can be in the wrong place sometimes. I want to use my talents to serve and glorify God. In teachingscripture, I hope to gain a better understanding of the word of God and to be more intentional with how I read the bible every day. I also hope to gain a bigger heart for people in loving my family group members, especially those that I would not be friends with in a worldly setting, so that I can better show the love of Christ in every part of my life.

I also wish to grow more in faith. Having discussed this decision with my own family group leaders as well as a few upperclassmen, I’ve heard multiple accounts of how people have been humbled by God. They’ve told me how they can so clearly see their own sin when their own plans fail and how their own love falls short of how Christ calls us to love. As someone who’s struggled with pride and believing that I can control everything in my life, I would want to struggle and grow in my faith by seeing that my leadership is flawed, and that God’s leadership will always be better.

**3) What is the role of a family group leader? \***

A family group leader should serve as a model of how a person should pursue God. A family group leader should demonstrate and encourage members to read the bible and pray every day in a desire to spend more time with God. A family group leader should be vulnerable in how she’s struggled with faith and how she’s fallen short of the glory of God. A family group leader should also glorify God by sharing how God’s truth and God’s love has affected her life. Most importantly, she should demonstrate how to view life with an eternal perspective, even if she struggles to do so herself.

A family group leader should reveal God’s truth and God’s love. A family group leader should be familiar with the bible: enough to point members to bible passages when they struggle. In bible studies, the family group leader should be able to discuss the passage and how it relates to our lives. A family group leader should love her members no matter how difficult it is, demonstrating the love and grace of Christ. She should be willing to give her time and resources for loving her members as well as prayerfully interceding on their behalf.

A family group leader should work in creating a gospel-centered community. She should cultivate an environment of vulnerability and unconditional love where we understand how we’re all flawed, so that all members can share their struggles and the family group members can intercede on their behalf. She should be aware when members are not acting in ways that are glorifying to God, and she should gently rebuke them in love. Cultivating an environment where people desire to pursue God and love their brothers and sisters is important in a body of Christ.

**4) How many times have you read the** New **Testament? \***

**5) How many times have you read the Old Testament? \***

**6) What are your time commitments during the prospective ministry term (i.e. summer or full academic year)? \***