

## #FORPARENTS

Community Group Curriculum for the week of September 21, 2014

### Big Picture

Few callings in life are as noble and sacred as that of raising children. Each child has been created in God's image. Christ died for each person in your home. Your child's future parenting will be impacted in large part by how you parent them. You cannot imagine the impact you might make for generations to come because you committed to grow toward being the parent God called you to be. As in other areas of life, there is far more at stake than we realize when we obey what God tells us to do.

### **Let's Explore Together!**

Opening Question: Describe your relationship with your parents growing up. What did they do well? Were there any family "rules" that were tough to follow?

1. **Read Exodus 20:12.** In God's eyes – and in a small child's – a parent stands in the place of God Himself. In the physical sense, parents are the child's creator, provider, lawgiver, teacher and protector. How a child responds to this relationship will greatly impact his/her later response to relationships in society.
  - a) Keeping this commandment falls on the child, but it *begins* with the parent through child training and example. Share an example of how you gave your child training in life or how your parent gave you training in life.
  - b) As a child what do you remember as the most important "life lesson" you received from your parent (or other family member who raised you)?
  - c) Why is the home the most vital factor in a child's development? What role do church and school play in a child's development?
2. **Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7.** How does a parent "teach diligently" these truths? What examples can you share? If you could "do it over" would you change how God's Word was presented to your children?
3. **Read Proverbs 13:24, 19:18, 22:15, 29:15-17.** What is the purpose of discipline? Describe the difference between abusive discipline and loving discipline. Give examples!
4. **Read Proverbs 14:26, 20:7.** Why do you suppose a righteous lifestyle – both public and private – is the #1 key in raising kids? Why is it more important than financial provision or academic advantages?
5. **Read Ephesians 6:1-4 (DADS).** This passage looks at children and their responsibility as well as dads. Let's focus on dads.
  - a) What things do you think Paul had in mind when he commanded fathers not to "provoke" their children?
  - b) Describe how a dad might "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

- c) Why do you think Paul addressed only fathers rather than both parents?
6. **Read Proverbs 31:10-31 (MOMS).** Proverbs 31 lists the advice given to an ancient king, Lemuel, by his mother, concerning the qualities of a suitable wife. After reading this passage focus on verses 28-31 and the role of moms.
- a) What is it about this woman's life that causes her children to praise her?
- b) Ladies: What are the most fulfilling aspects of parenting? And what is the most difficult (Yes – you have permission to vent!)?
7. What do you want for your children, grandchildren, or your nephews and nieces? What kind of adult do you want them to become? Prioritize the list below for importance to your child (even if you now have an adult child) or grandchild or nephew/niece. Discuss your rationale in your prioritization with your group.
- \_\_\_ Accepting others
- \_\_\_ Financial responsibility
- \_\_\_ Healthy relationships with others
- \_\_\_ Discovery and development of spiritual gifts
- \_\_\_ Vital walk with the Lord
- \_\_\_ Growing responsibility
- \_\_\_ Generosity in giving
- \_\_\_ Obedience
- \_\_\_ Other(s)
8. Finally, for those who have adult children or grandchildren, how has your role as a parent changed? Discuss in your group. And for those in a “blended” family, what are the unique challenges you face? Discuss in your group.

### **Prayer for Parents**

“Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess; the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your Word and may their hearts be your dwelling place. In your precious name we pray, Amen.”

### **Personal Responsibility for Parents**

May parents accept responsibility and lead their children in the following ways:

- To reflect God's love in their love
- To parent with kindness
- To instruct in righteousness
- To provide for their children
- To set a good example

### **Suggested Reading**

- “Shepherding a Child's Heart” by Tedd Tripp
- “Raising Great Kids” by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend
- “Give Them Grace” by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson

**#FORFAMILY: #FORPARENTING**

What Kind of Parent Do You Want To Be?

**Brent Van Elswyk**

September 21, 2014

**INTRODUCTION:**

**SCRIPTURE:** Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 78:3-7; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

**EXPOSITION:**

1. Let your kids see you \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus!

2. Give them \_\_\_\_\_!

3. Cover them (and you) with \_\_\_\_\_!

4. Live life with a \_\_\_\_\_ perspective!

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5. Emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ over rules!

6. Learn to live with \_\_\_\_\_ feelings!

7. Concentrate on \_\_\_\_\_, not product!

**BOTTOM LINE:**

**APPLICATION:**

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