

Text in your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: Here

Women’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1777

Text to give to Real Life, simply text your amount to # 208.515.7441

Men’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1822

If you are new with us, text your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: New

“Parenting”

1. What is the goal of parenting? **The goal of parenting is** _____

- 2. Africa Illustration: You would need to know me to care for my kids while I am away.
 - a. Foundation of parenting = **My kids are God’s first.**
 - b. First step to parenting God’s way is to gain a fear of the Lord:

Psalms 24:1 (NLT) “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

- c. **Child dedication ceremony** (Next class April 24; next service April 27th)
 - i. This child is Yours first.
 - ii. We commit to model discipleship and raise them in the LORD.

3. Parenting Goal: To Raise **God-Dependent** Children

- a. **Three Strategies:** Reflect God the Father in...
 - i. Authority
 - ii. Attention
 - iii. Affection

4. **Main Text: Ephesians 6:4**

- a. Context of Ephesians 6:4: Abide, Church, a godly marriage, then parent
 - i. What we can conclude: **Parenting starts long before you parent.**

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

- b. Note about “**Fathers**”: Primary leadership does not mean sole authority over children.

Proverbs 1:8 (NIV) “Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.”

5. What does “**Do not exasperate your children**” mean?

- a. **Authority:** Help your children realize that they are born into a world where there is authority and your children are not the ultimate authority.
- b. What does it mean to “**exasperate**” your children?
 - i. Answer: “to frustrate [your child] intensely, to make something feel futile, to provoke them, to push their buttons” (Bettis).
 - 1. Favoritism and comparison
 - 2. Being overbearing and overprotective
 - 3. Nitpicking: Looking for the imperfections
 - 4. Pushing for achievement beyond reason
- c. These are all uses of **authority** that don’t model God’s authority

Matthew 18:6 (NLT) “But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

6. "Instead, bring them up..."

a. Training Away from the Negative

Hebrews 12:10 (NLT) "For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness."

- i. Represent God the Father's **affection** in the way you **speak**:
 1. See a difference between a mistake and a sin
 2. When a child sins, help them realize that their sin is first and mostly against God.
- ii. Represent God the Father's **affection** in the way you **act**:

Proverbs 13:24 (NIV) "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them."

1. Discipline in love and be unified with your spouse
2. Be emotionally close... never remove your emotional closeness as a means to discipline

b. Instruct Towards the Positive

- i. Represent the Father, by showing your child **attention**

1 Peter 3:12 (NLT) "The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."

- ii. Show **attention** and give instruction by saying: "Come with me."
 1. Come with me to learn how to change oil. [Life skills]
 2. Come with me to serve at the homeless shelter. [Love in action]
 3. Come with me to pray. [God-dependence]

7. Resources

- i. Shepherding a child's heart by Tedd Tripp
- ii. Family Worship by Don Whitney
- iii. Exploring the Bible Together - good family bible reading plan
- iv. The Intentional Father

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Ice Breaker: Tell a story about a time where your mom or dad parented you well.

Main Text: Ephesians 6:4. Try starting with Ephesians 5 to gain context.

Questions:

- 1) What are some **goals of parenting** according to scripture?
- 2) How does this conversation apply to those without children?
- 3) What does "**Do not exasperate your children**" mean?
 - a) Is there an area of your life that the Holy Spirit is convicting you to repent from?
- 4) What does "Bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord" mean?
 - a) Give an example of when you either did this well or poorly.
 - b) Is there an area of your life that needs to change?
- 5) How does forgiveness of our own parents play into our parenting?
 - a) Have you forgiven your parents for their shortcomings, sins, and failures?
- 6) What's your next step after this conversation?
 - a) And is there anything that this life group can do to help you?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
bit.ly/ROvertime



Series Resources
bit.ly/RLcurrentseries

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