Marriage Enrichment



Lesson Topic: Parenting

Week Two Homework

The mission and goal of Christian parenting is to make disciples for the glory of God and be wise and godly in the stewardship of the children He places in your care for a period of time. The homework for this week will help you embrace this mission.

(Please Note: even if you don’t plan on having children or you are unable to have children, this topic may be relevant to you since you may someday adopt a child or God may put you in a place of having significant influence in a child’s life!)

**Scripture Memory Verse:** “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6 ESV):

**In the Word Together (**Read and discuss the following verses with your spouse):

What do the following verses teach you about parenting?

1. Psalm 78: 1-8

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1. Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 6:5-9

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1. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

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1. Hebrews 12:9-10

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**Talk About It Together:**

Discuss the following questions with your spouse and write down your shared responses:

1. The greatest human responsibility is taking care of a child. At Large Group, you learned that Parenting at its core, is passing on the truths of the Gospel to your children and making them disciples for the glory of God. It is not about handling individual situations when raising your children; rather it is about understanding the heart of God for your children and His pursuit of them (and us all) as sinners.

Disciple making starts at home with evangelism and the Gospel. We should strive to be experts of the Gospel. As parents you need to be able to pour the Gospel into your children at any point in their lives. The great hope of Christian parents is that their children will grow up to be disciples by following Christ, being doers of the word and loving & serving the Lord as living sacrifices for Him. What are some ways that you can model this for your children and intentionally teach and train them to seek, serve, love and obey the Lord?

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1. Just as the heart of God is to pursue his sinful rebellious children, you will need to pursue your children in the same way– especially when they are being sinful and rebellious. You need to live out the Gospel by modeling it for them. Even as you try to love your children and pour yourselves into them, you will undoubtedly sin against your children in the course of raising and training them. How does your sinning against your children give you the opportunity to present the Gospel to your children?

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1. In Ephesians 6:4 it says “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” What are some ways that parents provoke their children? What are some practical ways that you can help to avoid this pitfall and “gain a hearing with your children” so that they will listen to you as you train them to be disciples?

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1. We often think of biblical stewardship in terms of our time, talents and treasure. Children are a treasure that require your time and talent. In what ways do you think that the biblical principles of stewardship apply to how you would raise and train your children? What would this look like in how you would parent your children?

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1. Share with your spouse one significant “take away” from this first month’s study on Parenting that impacted your view of your marriage or your potential role as a parent someday?

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1. The following list of questions were included in the homework for Week One. If you have not yet discussed all of these question with your spouse, please invest the time to do so in an effort be on the same page about parenting together and move towards “oneness” with your spouse in this area:
2. What do you think is the ultimate goal in raising children together?
3. What fears, if any, do you have about raising children?
4. What habits or ways of parenting would you like to encourage or discourage?
5. What kinds of discipline do you both see yourselves using?
6. What type of education would you like for your children (public, Christian school, home school)?
7. How involved do you want your extended families to be in your children’s lives?
8. What will you do to connect with your children as a couple and individually as a mother and father?
9. How important will sports and other activities be for your children? What if it conflicts with attending church or other commitments at church?
10. Do you want your children to have a stay-at-home mom?

**Recommended Practical Ideas to Prepare for Parenting:**

* During the Large Group talk we were encouraged to know the gospel well and practice our disciple making on other children. One way to do that is to be involved in the children’s ministry or youth ministries at church. Consider being involved in these ministries to impact children’s’ lives now to help them learn how to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and to practice making disciples.

**Recommended Additional Resources to Read:**

* “The Duties of Parents” by J.C. Ryle
* “Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family” by Paul David Tripp
* “Shepherding a Child’s Heart” by Tedd Tripp
* “Start Your Family: Inspiration for Having Babies” by Steve & Candice Watters (Moody Publishers)
* “What the Bible Says About Parenting: Biblical Principles for Raising Godly Children” by John MacArthur

The following books were mentioned during the Large Group talk in regards to the mission of parenting being disciple making. Strive to be an expert at knowing and living out the Gospel for your children.

* “What is the Gospel” by Greg Gilbert
* “Gospel Primer” by Milton Vincent
* “Holiness” by J.C. Ryle

**Breakout Time – Please come prepared to talk about the following during Breakout Time:**

1. In regards to what you shared with the group last week during Breakout, what have you done to improve the oneness in your marriage in regards to parenting?

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1. What has the Lord taught you in your personal times with him this past week? What are you reading and how many days were you in the word and prayer?

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1. Goal for Oneness This Week: **From Question #6 from the Homework**: Was there any specific question/topic from the list that you discussed with your spouse that was hard to come together in Oneness? Is there something that you need to turn over to the Lord and humbly work through with your spouse to come together in oneness about this issue?

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1. What is the Lord leading you to pray about this week for your marriage specifically in the area of parenting?

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