



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: What does the temperature have to be outside for you to begin wearing summer gear – shorts, sandals, no jacket?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 2 & 4.

1. Read Romans 3:23 and Psalm 51:5. How has the intentional shift in culture today misinformed us about how to parent and the purpose of the family? Pastor Tom explains that “At the core of sin is pride and selfishness.” How does this understanding help us support and build stronger families? He continues to state, “We all have the desire to control things . . . we would all love to have everyone fawn over us and have their entire lives orbit around our personal happiness.” How does this affect how people view and participate in family life? How do we overcome our imperfections and begin to encourage biblical parenting?
2. Pastor Tom lists some cultural issues that contribute to a non-biblical view of leading a family. What were some of those issues and how do they negatively affect families? Read Ephesians 5:1, 33 and 6:1-4. Compare and contrast the cultural issues Pastor Tom discussed with what the Bible says about marriage and family life. What is the biblical definition of parenting Pastor Tom quoted? What changes can you make in your life that allow you to view parenting in a biblical way? If you have a specific need in this area, how can your group help you to make those changes and be accountable?
3. Pastor Tom gives some examples of non-biblical parenting (see notes). What is the flaw in each of these parenting methods? Have you witnessed these parenting styles? Describe. What term can you come up with that best describes how you were parented? How does your parent’s style compare to what you currently observe in families? How have some parents you know created biblical methods? Whether you are a parent or not, what is the parenting quality you’d like to aspire to?
4. Read Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 6:7 and Proverbs 24:3. Pastor Tom said, “There’s hope in God’s Word to guide us”. What does God’s Word say about parenting? What is the ultimate goal of raising children? How can we let God’s Word guide us in our family life? Take a moment to pray for each of the families in your group. Pray for God to guide you as you support each other and the families in your sphere of influence.

Personal Guide for Week of April 8th

Read the following passages to discover what the Bible says about parents, children and families.

DAY 1: Read Ephesians 6:1-4

DAY 4: Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9

DAY 2: Read Hebrews 12:7-11

DAY 5: Read 2 Timothy 3:14-16

DAY 3: Read Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:15a; 24:3; 29:15b, 17

IS THIS US?

MESSAGE NOTES AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES

“BECAUSE I SAID SO”

APRIL 8, 2018

MESSAGE NOTES

To a great degree, what will happen in our culture and in societies in the years to come will happen because of how parents _____.

There’s been a very intentional shift in our culture and today almost without thinking, most people assume that children are the _____ of family life...

1. Why Do the Wrong People End Up _____ Their Family?

Note Romans 3:23; Psalm 51:5

At the _____ of sin is pride and selfishness.

We all have the desire to _____ things...

...we would all love to have everyone fawn over us and have their entire lives _____ around our personal happiness.

2. _____ Do the Wrong People End Up Leading Their Family?

A. _____ issues—_____ of family unit...no-fault _____...on-going influence of _____
(*Baby and Child Care*—1946).

B. _____ reason (note Ephesians 5:1, 33; 6:1-4) - way too many husbands and wives put their marriage on the _____ and make their lives all about the kids.
Biblical definition of parenting = *the biblical process of teaching and training your children to _____* (Young). The greatest gift you can ever give your children is a healthy _____.

3. How Does This _____ Often Play Out?

...a cell nucleus is the control center of a cell and a primary function is to _____ and coordinate all the cell’s activities...

- A. _____ or *First Responder parents*
- B. _____ *parents*
- C. _____ *Mom or NCAA Dad*
- D. _____ *parents*

Is This Us?:

- Children need their parents to be in the “_____”...
- Note Proverbs 22:15a; 29:15b
- *The biblical process of teaching and training your children to _____* (Young).
- Note Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 24:3
- There’s _____ in God’s Word to guide us...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Because I Said So...”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

To a great degree, what will happen in our culture and in societies in the years to come will happen because of how parents parent.

There's been a very intentional shift in our culture and today almost without thinking, most people assume that children are the center of family life...

1. Why Do the Wrong People End Up Leading Their Family?

Note Romans 3:23; Psalm 51:5
At the core of sin is pride and selfishness.

We all have the desire to control things...
...we would all love to have everyone fawn over us and have their entire lives orbit around our personal happiness.

2. How Do the Wrong People End Up Leading Their Family?

- A. Cultural issues – decline of family unit...no-fault divorce...on-going influence of Dr. Spock (*Baby and Child Care* – 1946).
- B. Biblical reason (note Ephesians 5:1, 33; 6:1-4) – way too many husbands and wives put their marriage on the backburner and make their lives all about the kids. Biblical definition of parenting = *the biblical process of teaching and training your children to leave* (Young). The greatest gift you can ever give your children is a healthy marriage.

3. How Does This Confusion Often Play-Out?

...a cell nucleus is the control center of a cell and a primary function is to control and coordinate all the cell's activities...

- A. Helicopter or *First Responder* parents
- B. BFF parents
- C. Backstage Mom or *NCAA Dad*
- D. Psychobabble parents

Is This Us?:

- Children need their parents to be in the “corner office”...
- Note Proverbs 22:15a; 29:15b
- *The biblical process of teaching and training your children to leave* (Young).
- Note Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 24:3
- There's hope in God's Word to guide us...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!