

PARENTING

KIDS (5 Minutes)

Q: Who obeys their mom and dad EVERY SINGLE TIME?

Q: Why is it so hard to obey?

Q: How does it make you feel when you obey? When you disobey?

Let's see what the Bible has to say about obeying our parents.

Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.'"

Q: Why should we obey our parents?

----DISMISS CHILDREN TO PLAY!----

ADULTS (20-22 Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

Does it seem a little bit odd that we spend much time and effort preparing for a child to enter our lives, biological or not, and somehow, when the day arrives, everyone trusts that you can handle raising a child because they allow you take him or her home? And you get a few days in and realize YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE DOING! Then 18 years, 20 years, later, and you still have no idea how to raise a child, but yet you've somehow managed for 20 years, and your children are still alive?

Parenting is HARD. Parenting makes no sense! Parenting is BEAUTIFUL! If you could describe your current parenting season in a few words phrase, how would you describe it?

QUESTIONS

Q: What part of parenting do you enjoy the most?

Q: What makes parenting children so difficult?

Have you ever wondered what God says about your children?

Psalms 127:3 says, "See, children are a gift from the Lord. The children born to us are our special reward."

Q: If God gives us children as a gift, what do you think He expects from us as their parents?

- Expect answers all over, but see if anyone mentions to "teach them about Jesus or God."

A pastor named David Platt says it well, “Our goal in parenting is not ultimately for our kids to get a good education or to be great athletes or to find a great husband or get a great career. Our goal is for them to love a great God.”

Q: How does this quote sit with you?

The Bible says in Deuteronomy 11:19, “**Teach [my commandments] to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.**”

Q: Why do you think teaching your children about God and obeying His commands is so important?

- Hone in on an eternal focus of parenting. Everything early fades and is but a mist and forgotten. Success measured by humans is insignificant in comparison to obedience to God’s commands and living eternally with Him.

When we shift our focus from “my child needs to be or do _____” to “how can I shape my child’s heart to want to obey and love God?” then we release the pressures of perfectionism parenting and allow God to use our imperfect parenting, perfectly! And we have children living in God’s will rather than in earthly standards.

Q: How can you share God’s commands and love with your child this week?

PRAYER (2-5 Minutes):

Leader: *Lead Prayer for the group with the prayer below (or something similar).*

Dear Heavenly Father, parenting is hard work, but you don’t leave us to fend for ourselves. In the midst of the chaos and drama, may we be reminded that the children we do have are a gift from You. May we tend to their hearts every day, teaching them about You and Your commands so that for all the days of their lives, they will love You and want to obey You. Give us wisdom to parent our children in the seasons we are in, and may we do so in love, tenderness, patience, and with our eyes fixated on You every day.