

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Helpful Instructions for Discipling Your Children

Last Letter - Week 6

ICEBREAKER: What is the best advice your parents ever gave you?

OVERVIEW: The Bible teaches that parents are to disciple their kids. Contrary to popular belief, God doesn't command parents to simply make sure that their kids get taught. He commands that parents get in the driver's seat of discipling their children. Today we will go deeper with Paul's instructions in 2 Timothy on how to be effective in the task of home discipleship.

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21.
 - a. What does it mean to "stir up anger in your children," and what does it mean to "exasperate" your children? What are some examples of ways that a father or mother might stir up anger or exasperate their children?
 - b. Can you think of ways that you have stirred up anger or exasperated your children? Explain.
 - c. How does stirring up anger and exasperating your children interfere with the goal of discipling your children?

- d. Ephesians 6:4 says to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." What is the difference between the "training" and the "instruction" of the Lord?
- e. What are some specific things that you are doing to bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord?
- f. What are some specific ways that you can improve at bringing up your kids in the training and instruction of the Lord?

3. Read 2 Timothy 2:15. One insight from the sermon was to diligently seek God's approval in your parenting. How can this help you to be a better parent?
4. What can you do to try to avoid seeking the approval of others in your parenting?
5. Another insight from the sermon was to set a good example. What good things have you learned from your parent's example? How can you be a better example of the kind of Christian that God wants your kids to become?

The Last Word: "Parents are to be the first and most important educators of their own children, diligently teaching them the Word of God. Parents cannot franchise their responsibility to the congregation, no matter how faithful and biblical it may be." — Dr. Al Mohler