

Equipping Parents



Home Group D-Guide

Your Kids For Christ For Life

ICEBREAKER: If you had to design a float for a parade, what would you design?

OVERVIEW: After the nourishment of your marriage, God's highest priority for parents is the discipleship of their kids. Sadly, between 70-90% of teens raised in a Christian home are leaving the church after high school, never to return. In other words, most parents and churches are losing the next generation. In this study we will dig deeper into the topic of parents leading their kids to be lifelong followers of Jesus Christ, and the church's role in equipping them for that task.

1. 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 1 Timothy 4:12.** Paul writes to the young pastor, Timothy, about the power of setting a good example. In your own words, what does it mean to model the way for *your* kids in each of the arenas listed below? (In other words, be specific about how you can set the example for your kids in each of the following ways.)
 - a. Be an example in what you say:
 - b. In the way you live:
 - c. In your love:
 - d. Your faith:
 - e. And your purity:
3. **Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 6:4.** In these passages God makes it clear that parents must disciple their children and not delegate this responsibility. Why do you think it is so important to God that parents not only make sure their kids get disciplined, but that they are the ones doing the discipling?

4. List the top 5 to 10 characteristics that you want your child to embody when they grow up. How can you better model of these traits for them?
5. What is your current plan/method of discipling your child in the home? How would you like to change/improve?
6. The world seems to assume that having your child very busy and active and involved is the answer to their development. But Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says that what your kids need is lots of time with their parents. Why is it important for kids to have lots of quality & quantity time with their parents for effective discipleship?
7. What activities are robbing your family of meaningful time together? What changes do you need to make to ensure that your kids are getting enough time with you?
8. One of the benefits of doing church with your kids as a shared experience is that it enables you to model your faith for them. How can you better model the faith for the children in our church when you are in worship and Home Group?
9. A second benefit of family-integrated ministry is that it enables you to closely observe your child's faith. What are some things that you can be looking for in your child while at church in order to measure their faith and spiritual development?

The Last Word: To effectively disciple your kids, set a good example, disciple them in the home, and participate with them at church so that you can model your faith and observe theirs.