



Group Discussion Guide: Raising Children | August 1, 2021

Begin with silence + prayer (5 minutes).

Read Proverbs 22:6. Once finished, spend a few moments in prayerful silence. Then, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

You might even use this prayer from Ruth Haley Barton’s book *Life Together in Christ*:

*Lord Jesus, stay with us,
For evening is at hand and the day is almost past;
Be our companion on the way, kindle our hearts and
awaken hope,
That we may know you as you are revealed in
Scripture and in the breaking of bread.
Grant this for the sake of your love.
Amen.*

Recap your past week and share some initial reflections on “Raising Children” (10 minutes).

- What were the highs and lows from your week?
- What from the conversation about raising children stood out to you and resonated with you? What challenged you?
- When you think of the topic of raising children, what feelings and questions does that bring up for you?



Split into smaller groups of three or four to read Scripture and answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (30 minutes). *Have each person share their thoughts on the Scriptures and questions below.*

- What would you say were some key distinctives of your parents' parenting style? What did they do that worked well?
- Growing up, was there an intentional focus in your home to know God and be a part of kingdom work? Explain.
- What do you think the biblical purpose of parenting is? Read some passages like **Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 1 Kings 2:1-4; Proverbs 1:8-9; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 3 John 1:4** to help with this.
- If you have kids, do you have a strategy for raising them? If so, what is it? If you do not have kids, do you have a strategy to help the parents that you do know raise their kids to love the Lord?
- One of the things that Billy and Dan talked about was how values and beliefs in kids are shaped by the lifestyle of their parents and the key adult figures in their lives. If your kids (real or imaginary) were to emulate your life and habits, would they come out loving God fiercely and working diligently on behalf of His kingdom?

Transition back to a large group for recap (20-25 minutes).

- What were some of things that came from your smaller group discussion that are noteworthy?
- What do you think it might look like to make Christ the center of your individual families? And not your spouse or your kids? What issues come up when you make the kids or your spouse the center? How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
- How do you think our group can participate in helping the kids proximal to this group love the Lord? What is one tangible way for us to do so?
- What challenges might your group face in this way? What good might come from it?



Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (15-20 minutes). *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- How are you and the Lord these days?
- How has it been in pointing your family towards Jesus this week with your words and actions?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- What has sharing Jesus looked like for you this week? Have you represented him well?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

Take a few moments to pray as a group over each other for resilient devotion to God this week.

Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes).

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.



Things coming up:

1. **GOD IS sermon series** begins August 8! GOD IS books are now available for life group leaders to pick up on Sunday mornings!
2. There will be two **GOD IS curriculum training sessions** coming up: (1) In-person on August 1 at 10am in South Room 3 at Franklin Road or (2) online on August 4 at 7pm via Zoom. Email Emerson at emersonkennedy@thecreek.org for more details on that!
3. **SERVE WEEK is August 21-28!** Whether it's doing home or yard maintenance for a struggling neighbor, cleaning up a road or park, or serving a couple of hours with a partner or at an event, we want to help you be #ForThe317. All you need to do is go to the VOMO.org website or download the VOMO app, click join an organization, type in TheCreekIndy, and look at the opportunities listed. You can access the app here: <https://app.vomo.org/org/thecreekindy> or online at thecreek.org/outreach.