

**This is a discussion guide based upon CRBC sermons. The questions provided below are for Home Group Leaders to utilize in facilitating discussion within their group. Home Group Leaders are encouraged to take these questions, re-arrange them, omit as required, add as required and change as required in order to best create a close Christian family that feels safe and secure to be open about their lives and their Christian walk. Please tailor as necessary based upon your leadership style and group dynamics.*

Additionally, if there are any questions, comments, critiques, inputs, etc... Please email Michael Griffin at airforce_griffin@yahoo.com.

ICE BREAKER

Do you have any children? If so, please briefly describe them (age, gender, what they are like).

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 127:3-5
Deuteronomy 8:5
Exodus 20:12
Proverbs 3:12
Proverbs 13:1
Proverbs 15:5
Proverbs 19:18
Proverbs 22:15
Hebrews 12:7-11
Ephesians 6:1-4
2 Timothy 3:14-16
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

QUESTIONS

- How has raising children changed over the years? For example, for many in the Greatest Generation their hobbies and activities were centered on the parents (bridge, 42, bowling, etc...). For many of the Baby Boomers, life was focused on career. Gen X and Millennials have created the new phenomenon of "helicopter parents."
- What resources have you used to learn how to become more effective parents?
- Pastor Rick said that in order to be effective Christian parents, we first need to have a meaningful walk with Christ. What does your spiritual walk look like? How do you spend time with Him? Are you going through a dry phase?
- What has parenting taught you about being a Christian? For example, I am constantly reminded of God's Grace and Forgiveness when I have to discipline my children. In those moments where I lose my temper and yell, I am instantly reminded

and thankful that God does not treat me that way and that I should alter my parenting style.

- How would you describe the way you were raised? Many of us grew up in difficult situations, what experiences in your life can you use to be a more effective parents?
- Are you are parent to your kids or their friend? Some parents have stated, "I do not want to punish little Bobby for X,Y or Z because I do not want them to hate me or be mad at me." What is the danger of being your kid's friend first and not their parent?
- What does discipline look like in your home? How does it change with each kid (or does it)? How does it change as they grow older?
- How do you balance instilling "respect and honor" with being too heavy handed?
- What does your family's spiritual life look like? Now, how does that flow over to your family? What would your spouse say about your spiritual life, your kids, close friends? Do you expect the Children's and Youth Ministry to be the primary and/or sole teacher of your children when it comes to spiritual matters?
- It is important to teach your children about the Bible, the stories and such that are in it. There are many verses within the Bible that explain that it is in fact a great teaching tool. How well do you know it? As your children get older are you willing to ask them candid questions about their faith and what they believe? Are you willing to listen to whatever questions they may have and to help them find understanding?
- More than that, Pastor Rick said one of our most powerful tools is our own testimony. What has God done in your life? What is your testimony? What does that look like when you are sharing with a three year old, an eight year old, a 12 year old, a 20 year old?
- When God gives you children, they are a gift. There are many who struggle to have them and pay lots and lots of money to achieve that dream. They are a wonderful gift, a wonderful assignment given to you by God. Realizing that you are first and foremost their example of a relationship with God and that the Creator of the Heavens and Earth have given you the duty and responsibility to raise them; how does that affect and/or change the way that you approach parenthood?