



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

Everybody dreams of the picture-perfect family, but few people experience what they've dreamed. As a parent, the key to having a family that thrives and not just survives is being intentional – acknowledging and accepting that it starts with you, protecting the proper family order, and beginning with the end in mind. Even if there's no such thing as the picture-perfect family, it doesn't mean we shouldn't strive for it.

Discussion Questions

1. If you've ever been a coach, teacher, volunteer for children, or just an astute observer, you have probably noticed one of the types of parents identified as "over-the-top." Share your experience with the group. What do you feel was the motivation behind the behavior exhibited by this parent?

(PARENTS) Can you identify any of these "over-the-top" tendencies in your own parenting? If so, explain.

2. Read 3 John 1:4. Michael said, "Parents, often worry more about what their children are doing than who they are becoming." Do you agree or disagree? Why?

What do you feel is the major contributor to this perspective of parenting? How do you feel your own parents did in helping you become who you are today?

(PARENTS) What are some ways to evaluate and correct this tendency in your own parenting?

3. Read Ephesians 5:25 and 6:1. In order to have a family that thrives and not just survives, we must protect the proper family order. How would you say your parents did with this important aspect of family? How did their successes and/or failures in this area affect your ideas about parenting and family?

Small Group Questions Continued

(PARENTS) On a scale of 1-5 how are you doing in the area of protecting the proper family order? What could you do better?

4. Read Galatians 6:3-5. Ultimately, a healthy family starts with you. What specific steps will you take this week to be a godly example to the others in your family? How will you actively participate in protecting the proper family order?

(PARENTS) In addition to the ideas above, what will you do to make sure you are always parenting with the end in mind?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

We are always looking for volunteers to help in our student ministry. Do you have a passion for middle or high school students? Contact Breanne Schafer if you want more information - bschafer@eclife.org.

OUR COMMUNITY

Haven Sanctuary for Women is hosting a garage sale on August 13 at Greenwood Wesleyan Church, 198 Emerson Avenue, Greenwood. How can you help? Drop off items to donate and come to the sale from 8am-2pm. For more information contact Carol - carola317@aol.com.

OUR WORLD

As a group, write out prayer cards for the leaders of our global mission partners. Bill and Kelli Luallen lead Hope Road in Nicaragua, Rick and Katie Johnson lead Exodo Church in Colombia and Frank Williams leads SMI-Haiti. They face tough decisions and circumstances every day, and could use your prayers and encouragement. Drop your cards off at the Information or Outreach desks during weekend services or the office during the week.