

Connect Group

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS | 7.12.26

Kingdom Here, Kingdom There // The Paradox of Parenting

Welcome & Connection

Who was part of your village? Looking back, who is someone besides your parents who helped shape the person you became? What did they do that made such a lasting impact?

Connect Group Questions

1. It takes a village. The message emphasized that passing on faith is the responsibility of the whole church, not just parents.

Why do you think God designed faith to be passed from one generation to the next through a community of people instead of only through parents? What do children gain from having many adults investing in their lives?

2. Kids need both closeness and challenge. One of the main ideas was the paradox of "Get Closer + Get Away." Children need love, encouragement, and support, but they also need opportunities to struggle, grow, and become capable.

Why is it so difficult to hold those two ideas together? Which side do you think our culture tends to emphasize more—getting closer or stepping back—and what are the strengths and dangers of each?

3. What do kids remember? The message suggested that children are deeply shaped by hearing adults talk about God, share stories of His faithfulness, and pray out loud—even when it seems like they aren't paying attention.

Why do you think those ordinary, repeated moments can have such a lasting impact on a child's faith? Looking back on your own life, what kinds of moments have stayed with you?

4. "He carries us in His arms." The message ended with the reminder that God carries both us and the next generation.

How might parenting—and our influence on the next generation—change if we truly believed that God loves our children even more than we do and is carrying them when we cannot?

If you're a parent: How does that truth challenge or encourage you?

If you're not a parent: How does that truth shape the way you encourage parents or invest in younger generations?

Weekly Challenge

Wear your rubber band this week as a reminder that loving the next generation stretches us. Every time you notice it, thank God that He carries you, and ask Him to show you one way to encourage a child, student, parent, or family this week. Then act on it. Small moments of faithfulness today can become lifelong memories for the next generation.