



COLOSSIANS

Colossians 3:20-21 **Rooted in Christ's Design for Parenting**

By Andrew Farhat

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone go around and share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- What is one characteristic you received from your parents you want to keep and one you wish you could change?

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- Read Colossians 3:20-21
- In this study (as in all studies), LIFEGroup leaders are encouraged to consider the stage of life of the parents present and gear questions accordingly. Singles/couples who plan to have children one day are encouraged to gain wisdom for their future. Additionally singles/couples are desperately needed to be positive mentors and role models for young people in our community. Studies say young people need at least 6 positive adult role models.
- Christian books that have blessed many believers today on parenting are *Shepherding your Child's Heart* by Ted Tripp, and *Give them Grace* by Elyse Fitzpatrick. For teenage years, the book *Sticky Faith* has made a significant impact.

- *Good Questions for Parents with Children Living in the Home*: Ted Tripp says: “You must not be embarrassed to be authorities to your children.” Pastor and Author John Piper says: “Parents must require obedience.” Why do you believe this is important?
- Jesus said: “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Why is it important to shepherd your child’s heart?
- What is your biggest challenge right now as a parent? How can your group pray for you?
- What wisdom can be shared by more experienced parents with those less experienced?
- How is dinner time a great opportunity for LIFEGroup as a family? Children’s Bible’s, The Small Catechism, and Take Home Sheets provided by our Children’s Ministry Director are examples of excellent materials to use.
- Evaluate this parenting mindset: “The class is always in session.”
- *Good Questions for Parents with Children Who Have Moved Out of the Home*: How do you pray for your children?
- How does divine sovereignty and human responsibility take weight off your shoulders?
- What is one thing you are taking away from this passage tonight?

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
 - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you’ve encountered it in this week’s Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
 - What’s an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
 - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How’s your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you’re building and spiritual conversations you’re having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
 - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:

 - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
 - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?