

Pre-Groupie Time

Remind people to pray and update the journal.
Give praise reports and updates.
Follow up with your group midweek.

Pre-Groupie Time

Read the scripture and discussion topics.
Pray for your meeting and group.
Be the first to smile!

The 5 Questions

1. Who are you angry with?
2. Did someone hurt you?
3. Was your decision helpful or hurtful?
4. Is there something you need to say for?
5. Is there someone you need to forgive?

Icebreaker

What is your favorite quote?

Summary

Our lives are all about relationships. Parenting is one of the most difficult to get right, yet can be the most rewarding. How is your parenting?

Scripture

Proverbs 4:20-23 - Matters of the heart
Matthew 12:33-35 - Fruit trees and fruit.

Discussion

When dealing with our children, the instinct is to control. There are seasons for that, but often the behaviors we don't like are only symptoms, not the cause.

- How do you want your children to behave now? (examples: quiet, respectful, kind. . .)
- How do you normally attempt to get that behavior?
- How do you want your relationship with them to be when they are adults?
- Where does Solomon say our behaviors and actions come from in verse 23 of Proverbs 4?

It is significantly harder to parent the heart of a child.

- What are some of the roadblocks that make it more difficult?
- Did your parents address your heart or your behavior more often?

Jesus spent a lot of time addressing the heart. He did this because, as a parent, God's desire is to see the best come about for His children, just as we do with our kids.

- In Matthew 12, what does Jesus say about getting good fruit (behavior, actions, etc.)?
- If the roots of a tree are bad, will the tree be good?
- In the same way if your child's heart is "sick", will you see the actions and behaviors you desire—the good?

Rather than try to fight the symptoms, we need to address the heart to see the change we desire. This applies to ourselves as well as our children.

- Go through The 5 Questions and discuss how those relate to your answers from the beginning of group.
- What are some ways you can start using these in your parenting?
- What are some ways you can start using these in your approach to a relationship with God?

Week 1

"Parental Guidance"

Daniel Knutson

We Are Family