

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide  
October 7, 2018



## Family Goals – Week #4

### INTRO:

Pastor Paul shared some parenting types that most parents fall into:

- Helicopter (Hover)
- Lawnmower (Clear a path)
- Rake (Clean up messes)
- Leaf Blower (Blow away responsibility)
- Pick Ax (Pick at)
- Spade (Chop away)
- Dripping Faucet (Nag)
- Tiger (Be first in everything)
- Free Range (Kids run free)

What are the top 2 parenting styles you fall into and discuss why you tend to gravitate towards that style? If you are not a parent, discuss the top two styles your parents did to you and why do you believe they did that?

### DIVE IN:

1. God's design for parenting is the process of teaching and training your child to leave. Let's personalize this. How are you teaching and training your kids to leave? State in your own words does this mean for your kids? (For non-parents: How did you parents teach and train you to leave?)
2. Our kids belong to God, not you. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Do you struggle with remembering this when you parent? Be honest if you are "These are my kids" kind of parent and take time to express to God to change your mind and heart that they belong to Him ultimately.
3. Read through Psalm 127:1-5. Pay attention to the "Pastor Paul" translation of Verse 1:

"Unless the Lord builds a family, the work of the parents is wasted. Unless the Lord protects a family, guarding it with \_\_\_\_\_ will do no good."

Meditate on this. What jumps out at you? What is the Holy Spirit dealing with you on when you read this?

4. Think about the concepts of ownership vs ambassadorial parenting that Pastor Paul discussed. Take time to go through each one of these. Which side of the spectrum are you on? Discuss how do you get from ownership to be an ambassador. If you are not a parent discuss how did you see your parents growing up using these definitions.

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- Identity: Where you look to find your sense of who you are (Your kids vs. Jesus)
- Work: What you define as the work you have been called to do (Predetermined vs. Potential)
- Success: What you define success to be. (Produce kids successes vs. No power to produce)
- Reputation: What tell people who you are and what you're about (Trophies vs. Letdowns)

Take your remaining time to pray for each other and surrender your parenting styles to God and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to parent based on the love, wisdom, and grace of how God parents us.

For some, it's also a time to acknowledge times that your parents hurt you or fell short. Also take time to pray to forgive them and see your parents through God's eyes and compassion.

## NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?