

Sermon-Based GC Discussion Questions

Title of Sermon: Shepherd Children to Wisdom and Holiness

Main Point of Sermon:

Because God has entrusted parents with the spiritual formation of their children, we must reject parenting shortcuts and faithfully shepherd them through discipline and instruction toward holiness and wisdom.

Launching Question

What is something about parenting that seemed easier before you actually became a parent?

Why do you think parenting has a unique way of exposing our weaknesses, fears, and inadequacies?

Primary Scripture

Ephesians 6:4

Discussion Questions

Paul commands fathers to “bring them up” rather than simply control or manage them. What is the difference between shepherding a child and merely managing their behavior?

How does the picture of parenting in Deuteronomy 6 challenge the idea that spiritual formation can be outsourced to the church or other programs?

Why do you think Paul pairs discipline and instruction together? What dangers emerge when one is emphasized without the other?

In what ways does God’s discipline of His children (Hebrews 12) shape our understanding of what faithful parental discipline should look like?

The sermon described several parenting shortcuts: shame, pressure, control, disengagement, and intimidation. Why are shortcuts often so appealing when parenting becomes difficult or exhausting?

Application Questions

Which parenting shortcut are you most tempted toward right now? What’s it look like for you to shepherd instead?

What is one area where your child may be receiving the wrong message about what gives them value? How could you begin correcting that this week?

Are there areas where you are more focused on immediate compliance than long-term formation? What would it look like to shift your focus toward shepherding the heart?

How well do your children understand the “why” behind your discipline?

What is one specific step you can take this week to shepherd your children more intentionally through either discipline or instruction?

What is one ordinary moment in your home this week that you could intentionally turn into a spiritual moment?

Prayer Focus

Pray for wisdom and endurance as parents seek to shepherd their children faithfully.

Pray for humility to recognize and reject parenting shortcuts that provoke rather than nurture.

Pray that God would use ordinary moments in the home to draw children toward Himself.