

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

What Our Children Need

Pastor Chad Gilligan – November 9, 2025

1. Our Children Need Jesus: Matthew 19:13; Romans 10:9–10

- Parents brought children to Jesus so He could bless and pray for them.
- Children need to know Jesus as their **Savior** — nothing is more important than their eternity.
- Children need to know Jesus as their **Lord** — learning to trust, obey, and follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

- What are practical ways to help children personally encounter Jesus?
- What does it look like for a child to begin making Jesus “Lord” of their life?

Follow-Up Prompt:

Who in your life (a child, grandchild, or student) do you feel God prompting you to intentionally bring to Jesus this week?

2. Our Children Need Value: Matthew 19:13; Psalms 127:1–4; Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6

- You will **love, protect, and invest in** what you value.
- Children are a heritage and reward from the Lord (Psalm 127:3–4).
- Parents are called to raise children with tenderness, love, and the instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).
- The fifth commandment to honor parents has no expiration date (Ephesians 6:1–3).

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways families today unintentionally devalue children or neglect their spiritual growth?
- What does it mean to “invest” spiritually in your child’s life?

Follow-Up Prompt:

What’s one new way you can show your children (or the next generation) that they are deeply valued by God?

3. Our Children Need the Kingdom: Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14–15; Romans 14:17; Deuteronomy 6:6–9

- Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children.
- The Kingdom is marked by **righteousness, peace, and joy** in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

- Parents are called to impress God’s Word on their children daily (Deuteronomy 6:6–9).
- A Christ-centered home becomes a place of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways we can help our homes reflect the qualities of God’s Kingdom?
- How do righteousness, peace, and joy influence the spiritual climate of a family?
- How can parents respond if their children are currently not living in the Kingdom?

Follow-Up Prompt:

Pray this week: “Lord, help my home be a place of righteousness, peace, and joy.” What specific step can you take to make that a reality?

4. Our Children Need Blessing: Matthew 19:15; Proverbs 18:21; Colossians 3:17;

Psalms 16:6

- Bless your children with your **time** — presence communicates love.
- Bless your children with your **words** — your speech holds the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21).
- Bless your children with your **actions** — live with integrity and faith (Colossians 3:17).
- Bless your children with your **life** — your faith can impact generations (Psalms 16:6; 2 Kings 19:32–34).

Discussion Questions:

- Why is a parent’s consistency between words and actions so vital to a child’s faith?
- How do our words shape the emotional and spiritual lives of our children?

Follow-Up Prompt:

Ask God to show you one intentional way this week to bless your children (or spiritual children) through your time, words, actions, or example.

Key Takeaways

- The greatest gift we can give our children is a relationship with Jesus.
- Children thrive when they are valued, protected, and spiritually invested in.
- Homes that reflect God’s Kingdom are filled with righteousness, peace, and joy.
- Our blessing can extend beyond our lifetime, shaping future generations.

Reflection

- Which of the four needs stood out most to you, and why?
- What part of your home or parenting could better reflect the Kingdom of God?
- How can you intentionally pass on a spiritual inheritance to the next generation?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us how much You value children. Help us to lead the next generation to know You as Savior and Lord. Teach us to speak life, live with integrity, and create homes filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. May our words and actions leave a legacy that blesses generations to come. Amen.