

## Parenting 101 – A Spiritual Perspective

What is our goal as Christian parents? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does that differ from the world's perspective of "successful parenting"?

\_\_\_\_\_

Basic human needs:

To be \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.

To know \_\_\_\_\_ and to be \_\_\_\_\_.

A child experiences love as \_\_\_\_\_.

Bible references:

Psalms 127 – From God, a heritage

Psalms 78:1-8 – Share the deeds and wonders of God

Proverbs 22:6 – Training them up (1 Tim 4:8-16)

Merriam-Webster: **train**, verb, a: to teach as to make fit, qualified, or proficient; b: to form by instruction, discipline, or drill

Ephesians 6:1-2 – There is that word (discipline) again!

OBC's Vision for your Family is doing life together as a Household of God, as we have heard in the series in 1 Timothy

From Joseph Hellerman's, When the Church was a Family, we learn four New Testament family values (from Chapter 7, "Life Together in the Family of God"):

- 1) We share our stuff together
- 2) We share our hearts with one another
- 3) We stay, embrace the pain, and grow up with one another
- 4) Family is about more than me, the wife, and the kids

Rather than child dedication, we are encouraging a commissioning of you, the parents, in the congregation of OBC.

Answer key/discussion notes

## Parenting 101 – A Spiritual Perspective

*Basics*

*My experience as a father...*

What is our goal as Christian parents? target, objective

for our kids to know (and be known by) the Great Shepherd

*This is not a one-hour course on care and feeding of newborns, or parenting techniques; it is a course on biblical parenting principles.*

How does that differ from the world's perspective of "successful parenting"?

Independent of what school they attend, what profession they take, etc.

*Success is really that your children are followers, or disciples, of Jesus.*

Basic human needs:

To be forgiven of our sins.

To know love and to be included in the group.

A child experiences love as security. *Discuss how boundaries which are enforced give security to small children; behavior must be checked as they test the boundary. Discuss the need for parents to have unity in this (or prepare to be divided/conquered!)*

Bible references:

### **Psalm 127 – From God, a heritage**

*A psalm of ascent, the Great Hallel, sung by pilgrims ascending the hill to Jerusalem until they reached the temple at Psalm 134, written by Solomon.*

*Vs 1-2, God is sovereign in life, over the house, over the city*

*Vs 3-5, God is sovereign over the family—He gifts us w/ children. Remember God's promises to Abraham in Gen 13? He defined blessing w/ many descendants.*

### **Psalm 78:1-8 – Share the deeds and wonders of God**

*Why? So the next generation will not be rebellious and stubborn (vs 8) as their fathers.*

### **Proverbs 22:6 – Training them up (1 Tim 4:8-16)**

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*Corollary proverb, see Prov 13:24: The "rod" is the shepherd staff and it is not necessarily for beatings. Corporal punishment can be administered to the right level of development and in a*

*way that is not abusive. But the rod is also used to guide, the sheep, promptly correcting the path being chosen by one who is trending wayward.*

**Ephesians 6:1-2 – There is that word (discipline) again!**

We want our children to be disciples, so that requires Godly discipline.

*Note again how it is fathers who are to be responsible to bring up the children (without provoking them to anger). And the aim is for followers, or disciples of the Lord Jesus, not us!*

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Rather than child dedication, we are encouraging a commissioning of you, the parents, in the congregation of OBC.

This recognition is designed to remind us that:

- Children are a gift to us, but belong ultimately to God above
- There is a great deal of effort ahead of us to train and discipline the children up
- We are put together in community (flock) to impress godliness upon all our "lambs" through word and example to support each other

A final blessing to you all: Psalm 128