

SESSION THREE

Trophies and Triumphs



*Discipline your son, and he will give you rest;
he will give delight to your heart*

PROVERBS 29:17

During our last session, we delved into the delicate balance between nurturing our marriage bond to ensure its growth and tending to the daily and crucial needs of our children, maintaining the functionality of our home. We hope that since then, you've had a chance to indulge in a date night or a tranquil moment over a morning coffee to reestablish your connection. If not, make sure to set aside time for that!

In today's session, Pastor Ben will refresh our memory with a pivotal Scripture from the Old Testament. This passage acts as a guiding principle, helping us evaluate how we allocate our time, financial resources, and energy. We sincerely hope you're regularly engaging with your small group on these highly significant topics and offering each other the necessary support along this journey. Both managing a marriage and raising children that thrive and flourish demand immense effort, and attempting them in isolation isn't sustainable. Our connectedness is crucial, so let's remain intertwined this week and delve into today's focal point: "Trophies and Triumphs."







coming together

During each session, we will begin with a question or brief activity designed to “put us on the same page” for the session.

- Do you still have any old trophies or medals from past accomplishments? How important were those activities to you at the time you won them?
- What has been your experience juggling spiritual activities with secular activities (such as sports and clubs)?



learning together

WATCH THE VIDEO



growing together

In the questions that follow, you will review and expand on the teaching you just experienced.

- How would you put into your own words the choice that Joshua is describing in today's passage (Josh 24:14-15)?
- How do we express sincerity and faithfulness in practical terms when leading our families?
- What are the things in our day/culture that we need to "put away"?
- What are the "time suckers" in your family's schedule that you struggle with?



going deeper

If there is time, and you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time in group or by yourself before the next meeting to dig further into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own and jot your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (ESV) it says,

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

- What do you think it means for these words to “be on your heart”?
- What are some practical ways to obey this command to you teach God’s words “diligently to your children”?
- What sort of evidence would you look for to see that your children “love the Lord...with all [their] heart...soul...and...might”?
- In Luke 6:38 it says, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” How can we teach our children the value of generosity? What are some ideas you could try to help them practice this?

resources

BOOK

“Fearless Parenting” by George Barna

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

“House or Home: Parenting Edition” by Chip Ingram

“Parenting” by Al Mohler.

PODCAST

“Passing Your Faith on to Your Kids” By Matt Chandler

[https://www.focusonthefamily.com/episodes/broadcast/
passing-your-faith-on-to-your-kids/](https://www.focusonthefamily.com/episodes/broadcast/passing-your-faith-on-to-your-kids/)



daily



Read and reflect on the following Scriptures between group meetings. Use this section to seek God on your own throughout the week. This time at home should begin and end with prayer. Don't get in a hurry; take enough time to hear God's direction.

Day 1

Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Reflect:

God's Word encourages us to be attentive to teaching our children to follow God. What are some ways you have done that and could do that in the future?

Day 2

Proverbs 23:13-14

"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol."

Reflect:

Spanking is more controversial than ever today, but disciplining children is not optional. What possible consequences are there if we don't love our children enough to discipline them?

reflections

Day 3

3 John 1:4

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

Reflect:

John was talking about his "spiritual" children, those he shepherded as a pastor, but this verse applies even more so to our earthly children. How could you increase the chances that your children will "walk in the truth"?

Day 4

Psalms 127:3-5

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate."

Reflect:

Parenting is not always easy. It's helpful to remember that children are a blessing. Is there anything you can think to do that would make parenting feel more like a blessing? Anything God could do? Pray about it.

Day 5

Colossians 3:21

"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

Reflect:

Consider what it may mean to "provoke your children" and discourage them.