



# Small Group Guide: The Talk

## Key Takeaways:

### 1. The Two Primary Goals of Parenting

- Raising children to be **godly**
- Raising children to be **independent** (financially AND emotionally)

### 2. Parenting is an Ongoing Process

- Training continues as long as children live in your home.
- It's a series of intentional actions toward a specific goal.
- The process doesn't stop when kids go to college if you're still supporting them.

### 3. The Power of Intentional Conversations

- The Hebrew word "dabar" (talk) is in the Piel stem - indicating:
  - Intentional, deliberate, premeditated action
  - Repeated, extended action over time

- Not one-time talks, but ongoing conversations throughout childhood.

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **Understanding the Goals**

1. How does our culture define successful parenting differently from the biblical definition presented in this sermon?
2. Pastor Allen said, "God does not exist to serve you. You exist to serve God." How does this truth challenge modern parenting approaches? How early should children learn this?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. Why is emotional independence as important as financial independence? What does emotional dependence on parents look like in adult children?
4. For parents: Which goal do you find more challenging, raising godly children or raising independent children? Why?

### **The Method - Intentional Conversations**

1. The sermon emphasized that these talks should be "premeditated" and "intentional." What's the difference between casual parenting conversations and the kind of intentional talks described in Deuteronomy 6:7?
2. Review the list of 10 essential talks from the sermon. Which ones were you never taught as a child? How has that affected your adult life?
3. Pastor Allen mentioned that these conversations should happen "when you sit in your house, when you walk by

the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." What does this tell us about the frequency and setting of these talks?

4. For parents: Which of the 10 talks do you feel least equipped to have with your children? What resources or help do you need?

### **Specific Talk Topics**

1. (Identity, Purpose, Character): Why is understanding their identity in Christ the foundation for protecting children from cultural confusion? Share an example of how culture tries to define identity differently than Scripture.
2. (Safety, Boundaries, Consent): Pastor Allen became emotional discussing this topic. Why is this conversation so critical? How can parents approach this sensitively but clearly?
3. (Faith, Morality, Worldview): This was identified as **the most important** talk. Why do you think some Christian parents assume the church will handle their children's spiritual education? What's the parent's unique role versus the church's role?

### **Practical Application:**

1. For parents: Looking at the 10 talks, which 2-3 do you need to prioritize having (or continuing) with your children in the next month?
2. For those without children at home: How can you support parents in your church or family with these conversations? What role can grandparents, aunts, uncles, and mentors play?

3. Pastor Allen's sermon mentioned that children who "deconstruct" their faith after leaving home indicate parents haven't done their job. This is a hard truth. How can we speak this truth in love while also offering grace and support to struggling parents?
4. What's one specific action step you'll take this week based on this sermon?
5. What's one thing from this sermon that challenged you most, and what's one thing that encouraged you most?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we seek Your wisdom for parents as they engage in essential conversations with their children. Protect our young ones from cultural lies and manipulation, keeping their hearts anchored in Your truth. We pray for those who have left the faith, asking You to draw them back through Your love. Grant us the courage to speak truth in love, even when it's challenging. May the next generation love You with all their heart, soul, and mind. Strengthen grandparents and mentors to support and fill gaps. With Your guidance, may our families flourish in Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## **5-Day Devotional**

### **Day 1: The Ultimate Goal of Parenting**

#### **Reading: Mark 8:34-38**

**Devotional:** As parents, we face countless decisions about our children's education, activities, and opportunities. Yet Jesus asks us the most sobering question: "What does it benefit if they gain the whole world but lose their soul?" This penetrating truth reorients our parenting priorities. Success isn't measured by scholarships, careers, or achievements; it's measured by eternity. When we make our children's spiritual formation our primary

goal, everything else falls into proper perspective. Today, examine your parenting priorities. Are you investing more energy in their temporal success or eternal destiny? The greatest legacy you can leave is children who know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary.

## **Day 2: The Joy of Spiritual Legacy**

### **Reading: 3 John 1:1-4**

**Devotional:** John writes that he has "no greater joy" than knowing his spiritual children walk in truth. This same joy belongs to parents who see their children following Christ. There is no promotion, possession, or accomplishment that compares to witnessing your child embrace faith and live according to God's Word. Conversely, nothing is more heartbreaking than watching them walk away from truth. This reality should drive us to our knees in prayer and propel us into intentional discipleship. Your children need more than rules. They need to see authentic faith lived out daily. They need parents who treasure God's Word, who pray fervently, who demonstrate repentance and grace. The truth they walk in tomorrow begins with the truth they witness in your life today.

## **Day 3: Teaching Diligently**

### **Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**Devotional:** The Shema commands us to teach God's Word diligently when sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up. Notice the comprehensive nature: this isn't a weekly Sunday school lesson but an ongoing, integrated lifestyle of discipleship. The Hebrew word for "talk" indicates intentional, premeditated, repeated conversations. Parenting isn't about one "talk" but many strategic discussions throughout childhood. Your home should be saturated with God's truth, not through legalistic rule-enforcement but through natural, ongoing conversations about what matters most. This requires preparation and intentionality. You cannot give what you don't have. Before you can teach your children to love God with all their heart, soul, and might, you must love Him this way yourself. Let God's Word dwell richly in your own heart first.

## **Day 4: Identity Rooted in Christ**

### **Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Devotional:** In a culture screaming conflicting messages about identity, our children desperately need to know who they are in Christ. Before the world tells them they're defined by their feelings, achievements, or peer approval, we must anchor them in biblical truth: they are chosen, adopted, redeemed, and sealed by God. This identity isn't earned through performance but received through grace. Children who understand their God-given identity are far more resistant to cultural manipulation and deception. They won't need to find themselves because they'll already know whose they are. Teach your children that God doesn't exist to serve them. They exist to serve Him. This isn't restrictive; it's liberating. When we live for God's glory rather than our own comfort, we discover true purpose, meaning, and joy.

## Day 5: Preparing for Independence

### Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

**Devotional:** Paul instructs believers to live quietly, mind their own business, work with their hands, and not be dependent on anybody, including parents. Our goal isn't to raise children who need us forever, but adults who can stand independently, equipped with faith, wisdom, and practical skills. This requires intentionally teaching responsibility, financial literacy, emotional resilience, and conflict resolution. It means letting them experience age-appropriate consequences and learn from mistakes. Many parents fail here, either through neglect or helicopter parenting. Both extremes cripple our children's development. True love prepares children for the reality they'll face, not the fantasy we wish existed. When they leave your home, they should be both spiritually grounded in Christ and practically prepared for life's challenges. This dual preparation, godliness and independence, is your calling as a parent.