

## Week 4 The Mission of Parenting



## LifeGroup Discussion Guide



### How to use This Guide:

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

### Our Main Idea:

Reggie Joiner writes in *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity*, “We’re fine if our children never climb a mountain as long as it guarantees they never get hurt. But what if your children were made for the mountains? ... The ultimate mission of the family is not to protect your children from all harm but to mobilize them for the mission of God. ... It is possible to hold on to our kids so tightly that we forget the ultimate goal of parenting is to let go.”

### Key Questions:

- To open, share one of your best parenting successes and one of your worst parenting failures with the group. Keep it light and remember that no parent is perfect.
- Name people you would call good parents. What makes you choose those people?
- What are some of the primary challenges that our youth and children are facing in our culture today? How can the church help parents confront these challenges?
- What specific circumstances are you currently facing with your children where you are in desperate need of wisdom?
- Read Psalm 78:1-4. What steps are you currently taking to “tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done”?
- Read Psalm 127. In verse 4, children are compared to arrows. If arrows are meant to be launched, why do we struggle so much with letting our children go?
- Read Ephesians 6:1-4. Do you feel that we have problems in our society with this passage? What can we do to structure our homes like this passage describes?
- Mike shared four problems with child-centered homes. Guilt, Permissiveness, Control, and Busyness. Do you struggle with any of these areas in your family? If you are comfortable, share with the group your biggest challenge.

### Next Steps:

- For Families: Use the questions below to come up with a Family Mission Statement. What steps do you need to take to make this happen?
- What traditions do you need to start with your family? What habits do you need to break? What do you need to continue? Make a plan for putting Jesus first in your family.
- Find a Video Bible Study on Parenting on Rightnow Media ([www.mycornerstone.org/rightnow](http://www.mycornerstone.org/rightnow)) and work through it as a family. The study “It Starts at Home” is a great study to begin with.

### Experience

Your Relationship with God

What do we want to characterize our family for generations to come?

### Equip

Your Relationship with Others

How would we want others to describe our family?

### Engage

Your Relationship with the World

How can we best use our talents and gifts to share Jesus with others?

**DEVELOPING A FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT**