



THE PURPOSE OF PARENTING

Reflection/discussion guide

- What did you want to be “when you grew up” when you were a child? When you were a teenager?
- In what ways is your life what your parents hoped it would become? In what ways is it different?
- In this session, the purpose of parenting is defined as:
Raising children to be interdependent, lifelong followers of Jesus who desire to make a kingdom contribution. Would you add anything to that definition of the purpose of parenting?
- What has releasing your grip on the rope early...a little bit at a time...looked like for you? If you have more than one child, in what ways has it been different for each? What’s the scariest part about watching your children grow in independence?
- In what ways have you helped your children recognize their need to be part of a faith community, church, etc. Is the idea of church more than just a place they attend once a week to learn about God?

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
John 10:10

- God wants to give our children a “rich and satisfying” life. What do you hope that looks like for your child? From what you know of scripture and the definition of the purpose of parenting used in this session, what is the primary source of a “rich and satisfying life”?
- How comfortable/confident/consistent are you in viewing yourself as the primary spiritual influence and discipler of your children? Do you have any family practices, traditions or rituals that have been particularly successful?

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.
1 Peter 4:10

- In what ways are your children gifted? What special interests do they have? What causes or social issues do they seem to care about? How can you help them use their uniqueness to make a Kingdom Contribution?
- How well are you modeling the following to your children:
 - Interdependence: Self-sufficient, yet committed to church
 - Lifelong follower of Jesus: Living out your faith daily
 - Kingdom Contribution: Using your gifts to serve others