

Family Matters

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3 – PARENTING AGAINST THE EXTREMES

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

– Ephesians 6:1-4

²¹Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

– Colossians 3:21

PRINCIPLES FOR PARENTING AGAINST THE EXTREMES

Set _____ and _____ for your children

Prioritize _____ your children to become _____ of Jesus

⁶Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

– Proverbs 22:6

Create an **environment** that _____ and _____ your child’s heart

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

– Philippians 4:6

Combat the _____ of parenting by _____ your children to your Heavenly Father

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Which parenting extreme (overly permissive or overbearing) did your parents tend to lean towards?
2. If you are a parent, which extreme (overly permissive or overbearing) do you tend to lean towards?
3. What are some of the unintended consequences of these parenting extremes that you have seen in your own life?
4. Why is patience a key for setting reasonable demands and expectations upon your children?
5. Why do parents struggle to prioritize training their children to follow Jesus?
6. Why does this take persistence?
7. Tell of a time that your parents created (or failed to create) an environment that encouraged and nurtured your heart as a child.
8. How can you create this kind of environment in your home?
9. How can prayer help us combat the anxiety that comes with parenting?
10. How might worrying about your child's future affect your parenting style?
11. What are some disciplines that you can put into practice in your family that will help you fight against these extremes?