



THE PARENTING SERIES

The Parenting Series

#parenting

Week 1

1 of 5

May 8, 2016

Bottom Line: We need to be intentional with our children. It's not always easy, but it is rewarding.

Icebreaker: Who is your favorite family on television? Why?

Key Verse: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* Matthew 11:28

We like seeing families on TV because they're sanitized. We see all the problems, but they aren't really big problems, and they often are resolved at the end of a half hour. The families are idyllic and attractive; we see something in them that we wish we could have ourselves. However, those families are not real. Our real families are much better than that – the lows are lower, and the joys are much higher. Don't get so bogged down in wishing your family was something that it's not to the point where you forget to be intentional in your own home.

We want our homes to be a refuge from the world, and we want the refuge we create in our homes to point our kids to the true and better refuge that they can find in Christ. For children in Christian homes, the first exposure they get to Jesus is mediated through the parents. Because of this, we have to make sure that we are intentional with our kids.

Jesus told us that if we are weary, we can come to Him and He will give us rest. Look at the care and intentionality in Jesus' words. Jesus is looking out for us, His children. He is offering us a place of refuge. He is ready to receive us in our joy and in our sorrows. He will work through the best and the worst of life with us and allow us to enter into the rest that only He provides.

So how do you parent in a way that intentionally shows your children your home is a place of rest and refuge? Pray for them every day. Be present with them. Jesus was available to His disciples and is available to you at all times. Talk with them and hear their struggles. Love them in word and in deed. And most of all, point them to the rest and comfort they can find in Christ. To do all of these things, we must be intentional.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said, "The number one thing that determines whether or not a kid is successful in life is character."

What does it mean to be intentional in parenting? Would you say your parents were intentional with you? How did their effort help or hurt you?

What is something you have been meaning to talk to your kids about? How will you make sure they are learning from you and not only from the culture around them?

Would you describe your home as a place of rest or refuge? Why or why not?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Knowing that our time with our kids is shorter than we think, what are you doing to maximize the time you have with them?

Helping your kids to see the need to love the Lord requires that you be intentional with your own faith. What steps are you taking to grow in your relationship with Jesus?

Do you realize that you have more influence in your kids' lives than any peer? What will you do with that influence? How can you lead them well?

What struggles do you have being intentional with your kids? Talk together about what struggles you face, and share wisdom as to how you can overcome these obstacles.

What does it mean to be a godly parent after your children leave the home and become adults themselves?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Pray that the people in this group would be godly parents who help their children to see Christ in them. Ask for God to help you to recognize His moments in your children's lives so that you can speak truth and love to them. Thank Him for the gift of being a parent.
2. Find a family devotion that works for you and take a couple nights of the week to teach the children in your home about who God is and what He has done for them.
3. Think of two or three concrete ways you can teach your kids that God loves them and that you care about them.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Jesus Christ.**

Bottom Line: We need to be intentional with our children. It's not always easy, but it is rewarding.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Isaiah 30:15

Day 2: 1 Samuel 1:27

Day 3: 1 Peter 3:5-7

Day 4: Proverbs 29:17

Day 5: Psalm 90:12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)