



Date: 10/22/2017

Scripture: **Luke 1:16-17**

### **Engaging with God in Family: Investing in Children**

So far we have looked at how the nature of the relationship within the trinity is a model for how we view marriage and how the marriage partners are to relate to each other. We also looked at how the character of God as seen through his covenants with His people (Israel in the OT and the Church in the NT) give us a window into how we view the character of marriage as an institution and the character traits spouses are to exemplify and strive for in their own marriage.

For many marriages, the product of their marriage is the children they either have naturally or add to their family through adoption.<sup>1</sup> Like marriage, childrearing is to be viewed through the lens of Scripture and requires character, as modeled by God in Christ. Childrearing also has roots in our relationship with our heavenly Father.

#### **Parenting in Scripture**

- In Deut. 6:6-7 Israel is told to teach the words the Lord commanded them “diligently” to their children. What does this encompass?
- Based on Deut. 6: 20-25, what is required of parents in order to be able to fulfill what God is asking of them?<sup>2</sup>
- Read Prov. 1:8-9 – What does this tell us about the role of both parents and how does it elevate the role of the mother?
- Read Eph. 6:4 – What does it mean to “provoke your children to anger” and do you have any specific examples of when you have done this to your kids?
- LG Leader – What are some texts in Scripture that guide you in your parenting?

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<sup>1</sup>It should be noted that there are a variety of ways in which a single person does raise children: adoption, single parent, etc.

<sup>2</sup> HINT: What story does God/Moses telling them to know?



## Parenting in Everyday Life

- Parenting and Discipline: What is the difference between parenting through punishment and discipline? Do you have a specific example that illustrates well the difference in how they are done and the result they produce?
- Parenting and Your Parents:
  - How much or little did/does your parents parenting influence your own parenting? Has that influence changed over the years?
  - Do your parents try to co-parent your kids now, and, if so, what happens? How do you handle it?
  - For the grandparents: How can you help your adult children parent better? What struggles do you have seeing your children parent? Do you see some of your own parenting faults in their parenting?
- Parenting and Influences – Generally there are four areas of influence in a child’s life. Discuss each individually and how they relate:
  - Scripture/Holy Spirit
  - Parents
  - World/Satan/Friends
  - Heart of the child themselves
- Parenting and Marriage:
  - How do you work out differences in parenting styles/philosophies? Do you have a specific example of when you disagreed and how you worked it out?
  - How has your parenting changed over the years as you have added more children to your family?
- Parenting and Discipleship: What are the core ideas of discipleship for parents to their children from Scripture? How do you accomplish these in your home?<sup>3</sup>
- If you are not currently in a parental role, how can you help others who are struggling in this area?

**For the week:** Think, pray, and discuss with your spouse about an area that needs intentional growth in regards to your parenting. Ask God to show you a sinful parenting habit you have. Is this something you need to discuss this with your children and asking for their forgiveness?

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<sup>3</sup> Read Deut. 6:7-9 for some guidance on how discipleship is to be viewed. There are many different ways in which parent’s disciple their children. Some do regular or semi-regular devotions and others do not.



## Parenting Resources:

- <http://mefchurch.org/faithathome.html>
- [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)
- “Parenting Means Wrestling Demons” by Jonathan Parnell - <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/parenting-means-wrestling-demons>
- “Perfect Peace for Imperfect Parents” by Josh Squires - <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/perfect-peace-for-imperfect-parents>
- <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>