

**FAMILY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD,
PART 4: PARENTS**
Colossians 3:21, Ephesians 6:4, & Deuteronomy 6

Successful parenting is not about achieving goals (that you have no power to produce) but about being a usable and faithful tool in the hands of the One who alone is able to produce good things in your children.

-Paul David Tripp

Christian Parents are Called to:

1) Discipline their children

- the need for discipline

- the means of discipline

- the fruit of discipline

2) Disciple their children

- the need for discipleship

- the means of discipleship

- the fruit of discipleship

3) Defend against discouragement

- how we discourage

- how we encourage

Small Group Application Questions

I. Getting to Know You

1. Share one instance in your life when something your parents did led you closer to God.

II. Into the Bible

2. Psalm 78:1-8 gives us a picture of the importance of teaching our children what God has done for us. Talk with your group about the things that God expects us to teach and the results that we should expect from that teaching.

3. This is a stretch question designed to help you build your Bible study skills. Just as the relation between Christ and the church is the basis for the Bible's teaching on marriage, the relationship between God the Father and his adopted children is the basis for the Bible's teaching to parents and children. Use a concordance or Bible search tool to look up verses that tell how God treats his children. Share these actions of God with your group. Pay special attention to things that you find repeated several times.

III. Application

4. Your Bible probably has a section heading between verses 17 and 18 of Colossians 3. Paul didn't write that! Pretend that it's not there and read straight through from Colossians 3:12 to 4:1. For this week's message, think about how you can treat your children in the home in a way that reflects your status as one of God's chosen people. Share with the group.

5. Each of you probably know Christian brothers and sisters who have no children. Some of them may be in your small group. How can you encourage them to apply the lessons of this passage in their lives?

IV. For Families

6. Our parenting in many ways reflects the way that our parents treated us. Share with your children this week how you were parented as you grew up. Be sure to include the bad as well as the good. Talk about how being aware of this history can make you a better parent.