



## Parenting with the Lord's Help - Leader's Guide

- Gather the following props for each section of the study: maternity clothes, diaper, toy, cell phone, grandchildren photo.
- Try to set up intergenerational groups to stimulate conversations.
- Time permitting you might insert a song, such as "Jesus Loves Me," LSB 588.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please be with us as we study Your Word focusing on Your gift of family. Teach us how to be God-pleasing grandparents, parents, and children. Jesus, in Your holy, redemptive name we pray. Amen.

This Bible study will look at different phases of parenting and share how God's Word helps us through each one.

### Maternity Clothes

1. When does the actual process of parenting begin? Don't forget to always begin with prayer for God is there from the very start.

Psalm 139:13-16

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Genesis 25:21

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- Parenting actually begins before you ever hold your newborn. It begins the moment God places that tiny life into your care, even at conception. And God has been preparing you for parenthood since the moment you started observing your own parents. Spouses come from very different households and parenting philosophies should be discussed from the very beginning. Once these are discussed and you are expecting your child, prepare for your child by staying healthy and going to the doctor. Cover your child with prayer continually! Read 1Thessalonians 5:16-18.

### Diaper

2. When the chubby little one arrives, it brings great joy, but then the sleepless nights, the confusion of cries and dirty diapers start. How do you make it through the lo-o-o-ng days and nights?

Isaiah 40:29-31

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Romans 12:12

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Colossians 4:2

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- Make sure you ask for prayers and support from Christian friends and family.

Toy

3. The baby has a personality and responds to those around him/her. Now what? As your child grows, so do his/her temptations. As a parent, you need to give your child the tools to overcome those temptations. It involves the word that the world hates ... discipline, always tempered with love and care. What is it and why is it necessary?

Proverbs 13:24

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Proverbs 20:11

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Proverbs 29:17

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Ephesians 6:4

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- Split into groups and have them discuss this sensitive topic. Keep in mind that one of the major battles as a parent is consistency. Read Proverbs 14:26; 19:19; 29:15.
- “In early childhood, while the children are still dependent upon the parents for care, nurture, instruction, and training; nature itself, not to speak of the Fourth Commandment, teaches that absolute obedience on the part of the children, within the limitations of Acts 5, 29; Ephesians 6, 4; Colossians 3, 21, must be required. Discipline given by either parent during the period of early childhood must be given immediate and unquestioning attention on the part of the children. If either the father or the mother permit disobedience, unwillingness, stubbornness, and other sinful manifestations to gain the ascendancy at this time; fondly and fatuously hoping, meanwhile, that the children will change for the better when they have reached the age of reason and discretion; such a parent is undermining his own position and paving the way for misery and heartaches in the future. The words of the Lord, Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20, and elsewhere, are too plain and emphatic to be disregarded with impunity.” (OBEDIENCE — ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE., The New Testament, Vol. 2, The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians, Kretzmann's Popular Commentary)

4. Moral discipline is important, but what is vital, along with discipline? Teaching your child the Gospel message about Jesus Christ, His forgiveness, and Him crucified and raised! Remember, the most important job as a parent is demonstrating the forgiveness of Christ as you teach your children about God's great mercy and grace through Christ's death and resurrection.

Deuteronomy 11:16-19

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Psalm 78:5-8

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Psalm 103:17-18

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Matthew 19:14

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Matthew 21:16

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Luke 11:4

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Luke 17:4

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- God's Word is our guide and rule in life. In Scripture, God calls parents to discipline their children. Scripture also helps us understand that discipline is about more than punishments. Parents are not called to punish because they are angry. Instead they are to teach and discipline their children so that they learn wisdom, what is good, what is sin, and what serves God and mankind. Sin deserves punishment, yet in Christ there is forgiveness. Let the children hear you ask for and give forgiveness willingly and lovingly. Consider saying, "I forgive you," instead of "That's okay." Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:21.

#### Cell Phone

5. The same child, who hugged you every day; said, "I love you" constantly; and smiled every time you walked in the room rolls his/her eyes. How do you handle these frustrating times? Continue bringing your child to church and teaching him/her God's Word.

Luke 2:46

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Psalm 25:6-8

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Psalm 71:5-6

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Psalm 119:9

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1 Peter 5:7

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Philippians 4:4-7

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- Remind the participants that a preteen or teen needs encouragement, as much, or more than as a younger child who demands the attention in a positive way. Romans 15:4-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- You might want to add these passages as time permits and discuss them in small groups. In their formative years, you have the responsibility to NOT let your child make decisions that will be bad for him/her. How do you handle materialism, as well as friends and their refusal to attend church? Here are suggested verses to guide these discussions: Ecclesiastes 4:13, Mark 9:37, Proverbs 4:1-6, and Proverbs 19:18.

#### Photo of Grandchildren

6. Time has passed and you are watching your child get married and have children of his/her own. You raised him/her, and now he/she is making his/her own decisions and sometimes, mistakes. Offer advice and help when asked. Although these words were written for Pastor Titus, they are also fitting for the relationship between a parent and an adult child.

Titus 2:3-7

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- As a friend of mine says, “Tell me once, it’s help. Tell me twice, it’s advice, but tell me a third time, it’s ‘butting in’!” She definitely has a point. Oh, and enjoy the times they come back and tell you that you were right! See Proverbs 31:28.

7. Always see the blessing that God has given you through your children and give Him thanks.

Psalm 127:3

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Proverbs 17:6

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Close with the doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805, focusing on the blessing of your parents, your children, and your grandchildren.

Parenting with the Lord’s Help

Written by: Cheryl Mattil, Sherman, Texas

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