

Group discussion questions

Group Discussion – Lesson 1

1. What idols do you recognize in your parenting style? Consider these possibilities: other parents' opinions, control, appearance, respect, appreciation.
2. Where are you tempted to impose your design for your kids, rather than God's?
3. How can you more fully discover God's design for your kids?

Group Discussion – Lesson 2

1. Can you think of a time when you circumvented a good learning experience by dictating or rescuing your child? Possible examples: homework, getting ready for school, cooking, cleaning, chores.
2. In what areas is it hard for you to value the parenting process over the immediate result? (Academics, sports, social, etc.)
3. Can you think of some good examples where Jesus answered people with questions in order to encourage self-examination?

Group Discussion – Lesson 3

1. What circumstances make you reluctant to exercise appropriate authority?
2. Many parents avoid setting boundaries and giving consequences because they are intimidated by their child's angry reaction. Why do we fear their anger? What are some ways we can overcome these fears?
3. Think about a boss or a coach in your life who was influential, but also fun to be around. What was it about him that earned your respect? How did he exercise authority over you?

Group Discussion – Lesson 4

1. Give examples of backpacks and boulders in your homes. Use the 3 clues. Discuss how to distinguish them.

Examples of "backpack" issues:

Examples of "boulders":

2. What is the difference in the way you would handle a backpack and a boulder?
3. Give an example of how you can use scaffolding to help your child solve a problem on their own. In what areas might you be tempted to use scaffolding as an excuse to rescue or dictate?

Group Discussion – Lesson 5

1. What surprises you most about the developmental stages of children?
2. Where do you have the tendency to personalize what is developmental?

Group Discussion – Lesson 6

Differentiate between commands and choices. Spend a few minutes with each of these situations and discuss how you might be inclined to issue a command. Then, think about how you could turn each command into a positive choice:

Issue # 1 – Your child won't clean up his room.

Issue # 2 – Waking up on a school day is a battle.

Issue # 3 – Your child is screaming at you.

Issue # 4 – Your children are fighting in the car.

Here are some phrases to help you reframe the issue:

"I will _____, when you _____."

"Feel free to _____, as soon as you _____."

"I'll be glad to _____, when _____."

"You are welcome to _____ as soon as the _____."

"Would you prefer to _____ or _____."

Group Discussion – Lesson 7

1. Do you have a "default" consequence you use too much? How could you be more imaginative?
2. Look at each of the following situations. Discuss potential natural and logical consequences for each:
 - a. Failing to pick up dirty clothes.
 - b. Being late for carpool.

- c. Being rude or disrespectful to you in front of friends.
- d. Real life situations members of your group may volunteer.

Group Discussion – Lesson 8

1. Is anger always negative? How can it be a force for positive change?
2. What stops you from being truly empathetic?
3. When we fail to deliver consequences, resentment often builds, making it harder to be empathetic. How does giving consequences help you be more empathetic?