

Growth Group Discussion Questions—Jan. 31-Feb. 6

1. What advertisements or commercials really annoy you?
2. Read Matt. 19:13-14, a story in which the disciples act like offensive linemen protecting the quarterback. Why do the disciples try to block the children from coming to Jesus?

Follow up: How do the disciples' attitudes towards children in this story reveal their society's regard for children?

3. Now read Matt. 18:1-3 as a growth group. Then discuss the value that God puts on children. Go a little deeper now. Why does Jesus say in verse 3 that *"unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"*?
4. We learned from the message that parents are to be "shepherds." What's more, good shepherds know their sheep inside and out. What does it mean to really *know* a child? Then talk about what it takes in terms of time and effort to really know a child deeply.
5. When Dave talked about parents being "trainers," he said that "you can't make an artist into an athlete or an athlete into an artist." His point was that we need to steer kids in the way that matches how God shaped them inside the womb. Did you parents do this for you? If so, how?
6. The Apostle Paul said without embarrassment that he was a model for his spiritual children (Read Phil. 4:9). In what areas of your life are you a good model for your kids or grandkids? Where can you step it up?
7. The final item in God's job description for parents is to be powerful and persistent "blessers" of their children. Dave shared some great ways to bless, involving talk, touch, and time together. We've all heard about *love* languages. What's your child or grandchild's *"blessing"* language?

[For more Biblical insight into parenting, join the class "Parenting Potluck" on Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM starting Feb. 2 as part of "The Food Network."]

Family Matters A Parent's Job Description – Part 2

A. Job Description Part Six: Parents Are _shepherds_____.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:14-16

1. A description of bad shepherds:

a. Bad shepherds were lazy – they didn't **_feed**_____ the sheep.

b. Bad shepherds were not focused – they didn't **_protect**_____ the sheep.

c. Bad shepherds were selfish – they didn't **_give**_____ to the sheep.

2. Good shepherds do three things well:

a. Good shepherds **_know**_____ their sheep.

b. Good shepherds **_lay down their life_** _____ for the sheep.

c. Good shepherds **_care about all_** _____ the sheep.

B. Job Description Part Seven: Parents Are
Trainers _____.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

C. Job Description Part Eight: Parents Are
Modelers _____.

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

D. Job Description Part Nine: Parents Are
Servers _____.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . .

Philippians 2:5-7

E. Job Description Part Ten: Parents Are
Blessers _____.

1. How Jacob Approached Blessings.

a. Jacob **_steals_** _____ a blessing.

b. Jacob **_manipulates_** _____ a blessing.

c. Jacob **_works for_** _____ a blessing.

d. Jacob **_begs for_** _____ a blessing.

e. Jacob **_wrestles_** _____ for a blessing.

2. How To Bless Your Children.

a. **_Talk_** _____ with them.

b. **_Touch_** _____ them appropriately.

c. **_Tell_** _____ them about Jesus.

d. **_Time_** _____ with them.

e. **_Treasure_** _____ them.