



Because the focus of this study is children, it is important to remember not everyone in your small group has children. Be sensitive to the fact that some are single without children, some are single parents, and some long to have children but can't.

Say it in a sentence: Marriage matters to God because children matter to God.

1. God uses great marriages to grow great kids. (19:13-15)

How did your parent's marriage affect your relationship with Jesus? Did they bring you to Jesus or hinder you in some way?

God gives parents the responsibility of extracting childishness (foolishness) from their children. Read the following verses...Proverbs 10:1, Proverbs 29:15, Proverbs 29:17, Proverbs 22:15. How does your marriage provide the context for extracting foolishness from your children?

Beyond bringing your children to church, what are you doing to give them a deep and accurate knowledge of Jesus? Do you discuss bible doctrines with them?

Do you have a set time in your weekly schedule that you systematically teach your children truth about God? What resources are you using?

How have the following negative influences hindered your children?

- Abortion
- A lack of oneness in their parents relationship
- Divorce
- Materialism
- Busyness

How are the following positive influences regularly demonstrated to your children?

- Faithfully bringing them to Jesus
- Parental Prayer
- Tender touch of parents
- Blessing (verbal affirmation defining their future)

Read Genesis 4:1-9. What affect do you think a battle for control in Adam and Eve had on Cain and Able? Should it surprise us when our children battle for control with each other if there is a battle for control between mom and dad? What areas of sin do you see in your children that mirror your own sin back to you?

What kind of legacy are you leaving for your children? What kind of marriage will they have if they follow the example you have left them?





2. God uses growing kids to grow great marriages. (18:1-6)

Our deceitful hearts often fool us into think we are pretty great. How does the patient care of little people humble you? Why does "littleness" define greatness in the kingdom of God?

Do you have a heart for children? How are you influencing children outside of your family? Jesus said when you receive a child you receive him? How do you experience more of Jesus by intentionally choices to put yourself in the path of children? What areas of discipleship are impossible without a regular encounter with children? How does God use your children to expose sin and selfishness in your heart?

Jesus said childlikeness is a prerequisite for entering the kingdom. What are children "like"? In what areas of your life are you growing in childlikeness? In what areas of your life do you see remaining childishness?

Have you ever caused a child to sin? How? (It could be sins of commission or omission) How have you repented and made restitution?

When was the last time you looked your children in the eye, humbled yourself, and sought forgiveness for the ways you have hurt them?

Additional Scripture:

Psalm 51:5

Psalm 113:9

1Tim. 1:5-6

1Thess. 2:7-8

1Sam. 1:24-28

Psalm 127:3

Psalm 27:10

Proverbs 17:6

Proverbs 4:1-4

