

Share It

Would you be able to identify the core, central goals that your parent(s) had for you when you were being raised at home? If not, what do you think they should have been? If so, what were they and how do you know they were important to your parent(s)?

NOTES TO LEADERS: General question to get your group talking about their home situations and if they can identify core values and goals that their parents championed. Because people come from so many different types of family origins, be especially sensitive to those who have only poor memories from their home lives.

Study the Bible

If we think of parenting as discipleship, then we have the best example of a "discipler" in the person of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. Read the passages together as a group and identify the discipleship technique He used and how that can be implemented by a parent or by an ally of a parent in the raising of the next generation of Jesus' Church.

-Matthew 4:18-20

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus gave value and meaning to His disciples by "calling them" to follow Him. When we call our kids to follow Jesus and follow us, we see parenting thru more of the missional lens that it is.

-Matthew 14:18-20

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus included the Disciples in the aspects of this miracle by having them distribute the food and then, in turn, give it to the people. He didn't have them stand aside and watch, but included them as partners in the process.

-Matthew 20:25-28

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus knew that His Disciples struggled with position over humility, so He challenged their value system and taught them that leadership begins with servanthood.

-Luke 11:1-4

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus' Disciples asked Him how to pray and He simply told them and modeled it for them. He didn't present some elaborate explanation, but simply showed them what they wanted to know.

-Luke 10:1-3

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus strategically sent out His Disciples in order to prepare the way for the message He was going to proclaim. Kids not only should be included in significant aspects of the mission of Jesus' rescue mission of the world, but can be paired up to depend upon and provide support and encouragement to one another.

Discuss Together

When we consider the idea of raising missional kids, parents can often feel more discouraged by the topic than encouraged. Why is that? What hope can you offer those who might be discouraged in this area?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Most parents have not begun to live missionally themselves, nonetheless been a source of missional training for their kids. But as both parents and kids become introduced to the idea of living “Rooted & Reaching” lives, parents can have a significant role in modeling and developing this foundational aspect of their kids’ lives.

What does it look like to be Jesus’ ambassador in your world? How can you help your children or other people’s kids you’re connected to find ways to be intentional influencers in their worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Take a moment to think out loud about some various examples of what it means for you to represent Jesus to your relational worlds. When you have a list of ideas of how you can be an intentional influencer in your world, consider how those ideas might be passed on to others that you influence by means of your example and discussion.

As you’ve begun to hear about this “Rooted and Reaching” mission for Trinity Church, what are your initial thoughts? How does it relate to your parenting or your influencing of younger generations?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Survey your group a bit about what their thoughts and attitudes are concerning the “Rooted & Reaching” mission concept that we’re beginning to share at Trinity Church. Openness and honesty is welcome – just be careful of someone who might be too overly critical in terms of how the rest of your group might be easily influenced by their negativity or that they might be too defensive if they are already on board. Just an opportunity to take the pulse of your group concerning how much traction “Rooted & Reaching” is gaining or not in the lives of our Church.

Pray

Pray for the families of Trinity Church who are “in it,” who are facing the everyday challenges of raising the next generation of Jesus’ Church.

Pray for the missionary your group has chosen to encourage and support.

Pray for the people in your relational world to whom you get to be an ambassador of Jesus.

Apply it This Week

Identify one aspect of “raising missional kids” and incorporate it into your own life or into the influence that you have in a child’s life.