



groups | DISCUSSION GUIDE

You'll Be Glad You Did: As a Parent

WARM UP

Talk about one of your funniest parenting fails or a parenting fail you witnessed.

SET IT UP

The goal of parenting could be summarized like this: To set them up for the day we send them off. As parents, we are preparing our kids for the day when they will be independent and make their own decisions. To do this well, we need to answer two questions as parents and influencers: What is the goal? What is my role? In Deuteronomy 6, Moses is speaking to the people of Israel just before they enter the promised land. They were about to make their home in a place where they would be surrounded by influences that could undermine their faith and the faith of their children. Moses paints a challenging vision of multi-generational faithfulness: "...that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands..."

- 1. What is the hardest part of parenting for you in this current stage? The most rewarding?**
- 2. Do you tend to be future oriented when parenting or engaged in the present? What is the advantage of each? What is the disadvantage?**
- 3. Read Psalm 78:1-7. Who is this passage charging with the responsibility to invest in the next generation?**
- 4. What was the vision/goal God wanted the people of Israel to hear? (verse 7).**
- 5. Four suggestions were given for parenting and investing in the next generation: enlarge your vision, begin with yourself, create a rhythm, and widen the circle. Which of those four do you need to work on the most?**
- 6. Pick one of the four that you would consider your strongest. Share one tip that you have for succeeding in that area.**
- 7. How can you invest in the next generation this coming season?**

WRAP IT UP

God has a much bigger vision and plan for the next generation than to get through their younger years unscathed and settle into a comfortable adulthood. We should have the same vision that God does. Investing in the next generation will require sacrifice – it will cost us something. But if we are willing to set aside our own desires and our own comforts for the sake of the next generation – It will be worth it.

LEADER TIPS

What better week to talk about serving in family ministries than this one?! The Say Yes to Serving Boards will be up for the next few weeks in the lobbies. Encourage your group to connect at one.