

# ASKING FOR A "FRIEND"



## Leader Conversation Guide – Asking for a Friend: How do you raise godly children?

### Main Idea

This week, Pastor Brett shared an insightful message on the vital role of raising godly children, grounding his teaching in the wisdom of Scripture. He highlighted the incredible value that God places on every life, as seen in passages like Psalm 139:13-18 and Psalm 127:3-5, which remind us that children are a precious gift from the Lord. Pastor Brett walked us through the different seasons of parenting—discipline, training, coaching, and friendship—emphasizing the importance of shaping a child's worldview, providing loving guidance, and fostering an environment of prayer and forgiveness. As we reflect on how we can parent in a way that honors God, let's consider the ways we can be intentional and engaged in our families, training up the next generation to follow Christ.

**Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!**

PSALM 127:3-5

### Make It Practical:

#### The Value of Life

- Children are a precious gift from God (Psalm 127:3-5), and we are called to honor the life He has created, recognizing His intricate design and purpose for each person (Psalm 139:13-18).

#### Seasons of Parenting

- Parenting involves different roles depending on the child's stage of life:
- Discipline (Ages 0-5): Focus on consistent control and correction.
- Training (Ages 5-12): Shape their worldview and beliefs.
- Coaching (Ages 12-18): Provide loving guidance and practical practice.
- Friendship (Ages 19+): Offer support and space while maintaining a relationship.

#### Biblical Principles for Parenting

- Parents should discipline with calmness, consistency, and compassion (Proverbs 22:15). They are called to nurture their children in the ways of the Lord, fostering a culture of forgiveness (Ephesians 6:4, 1 John 1:9), teaching them to pray (Philippians 4:6-7), and encouraging them to include God in every aspect of their lives (1 Corinthians 10:31).

## Talk About It

- How does Psalm 139:13-18 shape our understanding of the value of life, especially in the context of parenting? Consider discussing how recognizing God's involvement in our creation can influence the way we approach raising children.
- What are some practical ways to apply the principles of calm, consistent, controlled, and compassionate discipline during the early years of parenting (ages 0-5)? Reflect on Proverbs 22:15 and the importance of discipline in a child's early development.
- As children grow into the 'coaching' and 'friendship' years, how can parents balance offering guidance while respecting their child's growing independence? Explore the roles of unconditional love, engagement, and creating a culture of forgiveness during these later stages.

**Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

I CORINTHIANS 10:31

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of children and the opportunity to guide them in Your truth. Grant us wisdom, patience, and love as we raise them to follow You. Help us to model forgiveness, prayer, and faith in all we do. May our homes reflect Your grace, and may our children grow to know and love You more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Leader Tip

Baptism is happening this coming Sunday! Is anyone in your Group ready to take this Next Step in their relationship with Christ?