

18 SUMMERS

Leader Conversation Guide – 18 Summers: Parenting God’s Way

Main Idea

Parenting can be one of the most rewarding—and challenging—roles we’ll ever step into. With so much at stake, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, unsure, or even inadequate. But God doesn’t leave us to figure it out on our own.

In Luke 2:52, we see a picture of Jesus’ own growth: intellectually, physically, spiritually, and relationally. This verse gives us a blueprint for raising our kids God’s way—not by perfection, but by intentional, loving guidance in every area of their lives.

As we begin this conversation, let’s invite God to speak into our parenting. Whether you’re in a season of joy, struggle, or somewhere in between, He is with you—and He’s ready to lead you as you lead your children.

**Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and
in favor with God and all the people. LUKE 2:52**

Make It Practical

Help Your Children Grow Intellectually

- “Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.” — Proverbs 4:23 (TEV)
- Beliefs shape behavior—discipling starts with how kids learn to think.
- James 3:13-17 urges us to pursue godly wisdom, not worldly, self-centered thinking.

Help Your Children Grow Physically

- This includes caring for their health and modeling discipline.
- “The Lord disciplines everyone He loves...” — Hebrews 12:5-6 (GWT)
- Discipline is correction driven by love.
- Hebrews 12:10-11 reminds us that though discipline is painful at the time, it produces peace and righteousness later.

Help Your Children Grow Relationally

- “Show me your friends, I’ll show you your future.”
- “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise...” — Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
- Romans 12:10 (NKJV) calls us to love one another with deep affection and honor.

Help Your Children Grow Spiritually

- “Talk about [God’s Word] all the time...” — Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (CEV)
- Spiritual formation happens in everyday moments.
- Stay faithful in planting spiritual seeds: Galatians 6:9 (NIV) says we will reap a harvest if we don’t give up.

Talk About It

In what ways am I helping my child grow in all four key areas—intellectually, physically, relationally, and spiritually?

- Reflect on Luke 2:52 where Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and people. How can you intentionally support your child’s development in each of these areas, not just one or two?

What kind of wisdom am I modeling in my home?

- James 3:13-17 contrasts godly wisdom with self-centered ambition. Consider whether your parenting reflects humility, purity, peace, and mercy—or if it sometimes mirrors worldly patterns. What changes might God be prompting you to make?

What does discipline look like in my home, and is it rooted in love?

- Hebrews 12:5-11 reminds us that discipline is meant for our good, not punishment. Ask yourself: Am I disciplining in a way that reflects God’s love and helps my child grow in righteousness?

“Discipline is not something you do to your child, but for your child.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of our children and the privilege of shaping their lives. Help us to parent with wisdom, grace, and intentionality. Teach us to love through discipline, to lead by example, and to guide our children in every area of growth—intellectually, physically, relationally, and spiritually. May our homes reflect Your heart, and may our kids grow in favor with You and with others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps:

Evaluate Growth

- Assess how your child is growing intellectually, physically, relationally, and spiritually (Luke 2:52). Choose one way to be more intentional in each area this week.

Discipline with Love

- Reframe discipline as something you do for your child, not to them (Hebrews 12:10-11). Let love guide your correction.

Lead Spiritually Daily

- Look for simple ways to bring God into everyday moments—prayer, conversation, or Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).