

*Parenting: Preparing Our Kids
for a Complicated World*
Message from 3/16/25

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God,
the LORD is one. Love the LORD your
God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your
strength. These commandments
that I give you today are to be on
your hearts. Impress them on your
children. Talk about them when
you sit at home and when you walk
along the road, when you lie down
and when you get up.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 NIV

*Walk with the wise and become
wise; associate with fools and get
in trouble.* Proverbs 13:20 NLT

BIG IDEA: We need to parent on purpose in order to prepare our children for a complicated world.

Gifts Given that May Not Help:

1. Privileges they didn't earn.
2. Freedoms they can't handle.
3. Rescue too early.

Good Gifts that can Prepare:

1. A community worth having.
2. A faith worth pursuing.

Practical Steps:

1. Talk about it.
2. Create space for conversations.
3. Practice it together.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What was the last great gift you received? What made it so memorable?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scriptures speak to you?
- Read Matthew 7:11. We all want to give what's best to the kids in our lives. How can we know what gifts are good?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about someone who helped you love God better. How did they help you grow?
- The Law of Exposure says that the more you're around something, the more you become like it. How have you seen this truth play out in your own life with the people you have been around?
- Think about the good gifts: A community worth having and a faith worth pursuing. These gifts are valuable to people of any age. Which of these gifts could you give to someone in your life? What steps can you take to do this?
- If you have kids/youth in your life, which gifts do you need to refrain from giving them? Which good gifts would you like to pursue more with them?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Plan for a time/create space for conversation with someone in a different generation this week.
- Consider calling or sending a thank you note to someone who has mentored you or helped you in your relationship with God.
- Start the *Imperfect Parenting* Bible Plan:
www.go2.lc/parentingplan

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power for each other.

Dear God, thank You for being a good, heavenly parent who gives us good gifts. Help us to be thankful for the gifts you give us every day, and help us to bless others with good gifts too. Thank You for loving us and including us in your family. In Jesus' name, amen.