

Small Group Guide: “Family Life - How to Raise Kids in the 21st Century, Part 1”

Opening Question: If you were a teenager in today's world, what piece of technology or gadget do you think you would find most intriguing or exciting?

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. As we study Your Word and learn more about raising children according to Your principles, open our hearts and minds to understand Your wisdom. Lead our discussion and help us to support each other in living out Your teachings in our families. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Key Takeaways:

1. Parenting requires wisdom that keeps pace with rapidly evolving technology.
2. The focus should be on the quality of time spent with technology and the influence it has, rather than just the quantity.
3. God's timeless goal for parenting emphasizes transferring dependence from parents to God.
4. Teaching children to love God involves modeling authentic faith and engaging actively in community and church life.
5. Trusting God should be prioritized over merely learning facts about Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9.** How does this passage instruct us in the responsibilities of living out and teaching God's commandments?
2. As Pastor Dan discussed, what are some of the ways we can effectively balance the benefits and dangers of technology in our families?
3. **Read Proverbs 24:3.** How can families ensure they are guarding their hearts with the increasing influence of technology?
4. In what ways can parents and grandparents transfer dependence from themselves to dependence on God in today's culture (for their children and grandchildren)?
5. Discuss experiences or strategies that have helped your family develop good moral character and discipline in a tech-driven world.
6. How can the church community play a role in supporting families to live out these biblical principles?
7. In what practical ways can we model active church involvement to our children and grandchildren? How has this been significant in your life?

Practical Applications:

1. Review the types of technology your family uses and discuss its impact—positive or negative—at your next family meeting.
2. Make a commitment to spend one evening a week without any devices, focusing on family time or devotionals instead.
3. Identify one way you can personally model a deeper love for God to your children or grandchildren and set a plan to do it.

4. Find a church activity or service opportunity in which your whole family can participate together.
5. Choose a verse from this study (such as Deuteronomy 6:5) to memorize as a family and discuss its meaning and application in your lives.

Closing Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning. As we leave today, help us to apply what we've learned and to be shining examples of Your love within our families. Empower us with Your Spirit to model faith in action. Guide us in the week ahead as we aim to raise our children and support one another in ways that honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*