



Parenting: Expectants and Newborns

John & Sandie Dostal

Week 2– Key Relationships, Part 2

KEY RELATIONSHIPS part 2

THE BIBLICAL PARENT

Outline for the session:

1. God to Me: God as our Father
2. Me to Children: Parents to Children
 - a. Small Group Discussion
 - b. Large Group Q & A
3. Wrap Up/Homework

INTRODUCTION

1. God to Me: God as our Father

- **Read and reflect on how God reveals Himself as our Father in the following verses.** (*references used from the "Key Relationships chart"*)

Psalm 139:1-19

Isaiah 45:2-3; 49:1-3

Isaiah 49:15-16; 66:13

Psalm 103:1-18

Hosea 11:1-4

Matthew 6:26; 7:9-11; 10:29-31

Romans 8:15-17

Ephesians 1:3-8

Hebrews 12:5-11

1 John 3:1

- **Let's get specific: what are some words or phrases that describe God as our Father?**

- **Spend some time in prayer – praising and thanking God for being our Father in the ways you learned about Him from Scripture.**

2. Me To Children: Parent's Relationship to Their Children

As we have reflected on and worshipped God for His role as our Father, may we be both refreshed and challenged to continue on our journey as parents. Let's turn to His Word and begin to discuss what it looks like for us to parent in light of biblical truth.

What does God's Word say regarding parents and children?

Thanks be to God that His word DOES have much to say to us about parenting and children! The Bible is not a detailed encyclopedia or formula to apply in the same way in every home. It provides commands and principles that should be creatively and faithfully lived out in each home to God's glory. Let's break up into small groups and talk a little further about what the biblical parent looks like. Though some of our discussion leaders may not have children, they, just like you, have God's sufficient Word, so let's go now and be edified as we discuss more.

Small Group Discussion (see attached "The Biblical Parent")

Large Group Q & A

3. Wrap Up – Final Thoughts

Homework:

Please take some time to answer the discussion questions in more detail together as a couple.

If you are single, consider thinking through these questions with a friend who is a parent.

If you are a single parent, pursue answering these questions with a friend who is a parent and may be a little further along in their experience of parenting than you.

Remember that our God and His Word never changes, it is truth for life! Ask Him to humble your heart and guide you as you seek to parent. Pray also for unity with your spouse as you begin to implement what this will look like in your home.

1. God as our Perfect Parent
2. The Biblical Parent
3. Parenting Examples in the Bible (*for further study*)

God As Our Perfect Parent

Which of these different aspects of God as our perfect parent, our Father, specifically stand out to you? Explain your answer.

Which of these Fatherly characteristics do you find harder to accept? Explain your answer.

We all have an earthly father and have seen the sin that affects our relationships with one another. We also like to be in control of things, but only God is sovereign. May we see our tendencies to diminish, not trust or twist what is true about God and His ways as our Heavenly Father, and in turn may we be strengthened and enabled by a correct understanding of God!

As you begin or are on the journey of parenting, how can reflecting on these truths about God and His relationship with His children, both comfort and guide you?

The Biblical Parent

Where do you envision your strengths and weaknesses in reviewing God's call on you as a parent?

What should it look like to...

discipline your children in love?

teach them about God and His ways continually?

care for them?

not exasperate your children, but rather train and instruct them in the Lord?

love them, manage daily life well, and maintain a good marriage?

Resources:

[Duties of Parents](#) by J.C. Ryle

[Teach Them Diligently](#) by Lou Priolo

[Shepherding a Child's Heart](#) by Tedd Tripp

[To Train Up a Child](#) by Pearl

[The Heart of Anger](#) by Lou Priolo

[Don't Make Me Count to Three](#) by Ginger Plowman

[Spanking: Why, When, How?](#) by Roy Lessin

[Age of Opportunity](#) by Paul David Tripp

[Girl Talk](#) by Carolyn Mahaney & Nicole Mahaney Whitacre

[Raising a Christian Daughter in an MTV World](#) by Mary Ruth Murdoch

[Future Men](#) by Douglas Wilson

[Thoughts for Young Men](#) by J.C. Ryle

[God's Call to Young People: Sermons for the Rising Generation](#) Edited by Dr. Don Kistler (sermons from Barnard, Cooper, Edwards, Mather and others)

[Your Child's Profession of Faith](#) by Dennis Gundersen