



### INTRODUCTION

It is abundantly clear in scripture that God is a Father, and as a Father He sets His perfect example in love. He loves us even when we are unlovable, comforts us when we are broken, pursues us when we are wayward, lets us fail when we need to learn the hard way, and uses everything in our life for a teaching opportunity. He is a perfect father who gives His children what they need, not just what they want. As children of the Almighty God, it is our responsibility, duty, and joy to teach others the way God has taught us. This is especially true for those of you who are parents: God has placed a great blessing and a great calling on your life. Be diligent to discipline and graceful in your approach to parenting. Keep Jesus in the center of your life as God, and not the blessing (your children) He has given you. In all things imitate Christ so that many may see your good works and come to know Jesus.

### DISCUSSION

What is one thing your parents taught you that you want to teach your children?

### EXPLANATION

How did your parents teach (or not teach) through discipline?

How well do you teach your children, or the children around you, responsibility and maturity? Where (how high) have you set the bar?

### APPLICATION - Read Ephesians 6:4 & Colossians 3:18

How can you be more diligent in discipline and instruction?

Are setting a good example of this in the lives of your children or the children around you?

### MISSION

How does modeling discipline and grace speak of the truth of Jesus?

### FURTHER READING

Artificial Maturity by Dr. Tim Elmore.

### Homework for next week: Read Matthew 5:13-18

Were you ever afraid of the dark? Why?