

5-15-22 Facilitator Eph 6:1-4 - Tim Rice, Parents & Children In The Lord

1. **Launchers:** How would you describe your home life growing up?

2. **Worship:** Parenting as Shepherding from Psalm 23

Paul Miller once told me, "The goal of parenting is faith in Jesus, both theirs and ours". So, then we parent them to anticipate their need for Jesus. My favorite passage that sums up this work of a life anticipating faith and in the work of the parent is Psalm 23. The shepherd is in 3 positions in the Psalm, in front leading, beside or with in the valley of the shadow of death then following all the days of their life.

Worship God by reading Psalm 23 together, praying, begging, crying out to Jesus to lead, with (beside) and behind our children and ours all the days of ours and their lives.

3. **Sermon Reflection:** 5-15-22 Eph 6:1-4 Parents & Children In The Lord

GOSPEL WISDOM IN PARENTING

- What is Gospel wisdom? Let folks take a shot at answering then enjoy Tim's definition.
 - Tim's Answer: *It is humble love, lived out faithfully – it is true love internalized into character; and it's never merely forced, external conformity*
- What is your vision for your children? What is God's Vision for them?
- Describe the difference between provoking and inspiring them?

FOOLISH & SHORT-SIGHTED

- What is the alternative if we don't acknowledge God's design or His grace?
- Parents, how well do you know, *let alone enjoy*, your children? What does it reveal about you if your own flesh and blood annoys you?
- *Children, how do you defend against the suspicion-of-authority-soundtrack? And what does it reveal about us if we resent the people that gave us life?*

TRAINING & DISCIPLINE IN GRACE

- Why does it matter that all of this is seen and done *in the Lord*?
- What are you like when you parent out of your willfulness, or wisdom?
- Why do Parents need the Gospel?
- Why do children need to obey out of the Gospel?

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer:** YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, that He is loving and passionate and never forced in His care for us. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that He is faithful and gracious in His steadfast love.

2. How have you, as one *under* authority, lived as a rebellious child, and where have you, as one *in* authority been arrogant over those in your care? Ask Jesus to forgive you and work to fill you by His grace and care.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His grace to become fully human to identify with us in any role, whether as one under rules or as one leading others. Thank Him for His humility and that His rule is empty of any selfish regard or arrogance!

4. Pray for the parents and children in our church (and you can use the church directory from our website). Ask the Lord to lead them to Himself, and to change their hearts by His Spirit to be truly loving and obedient.

5. *Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your wisdom, giving you insight into your own heart and the hearts of children you care about (whether they are your children or family or friends).* Pray for His grace in you, so that you can love them better.

5. **Mission:** Christians are on mission to share the Good News – from drudgery to a party.

Christians are on mission to invite our friends, family, and enemies to the Eternal Party of God.

For those who are in Jesus Life is a Party. For those without Christ, life is drudgery.

Sit down with a friend and read Romans 6:23 and it is laid out for us right there. See my crude drawing on the next page. I met with my friend Richard to give him a simple, easy way to explain the Gospel to his family.

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Romans 6:23 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

