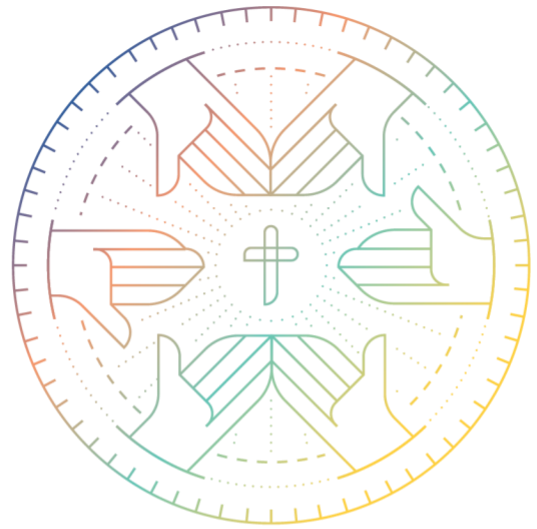


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Share a funny or memorable parenting moment that you experienced or witnessed. What made it special or unforgettable?

OR

What is one valuable lesson you have learned from your own father or a father-figure in your life that has influenced your life?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

**Read Psalm 127.**

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

David said, "Our Heavenly Father should shape our view of fatherhood!" How has this statement been true for you? How has your Father in heaven shaped your view of parenthood?

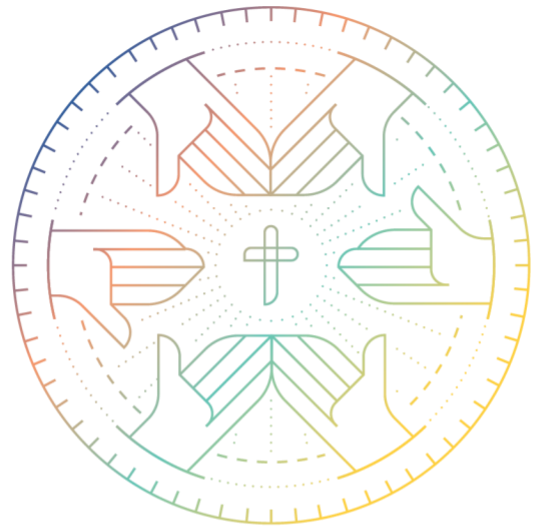
## INTO THE WORD (15 MINUTES)

**Read 2 Cor. 3:2-3.** Discuss how these two verses apply to parenting and in particular, the role of a Father. What thoughts come to mind as you consider that your life is writing a letter from God which is being read each day by those around you (especially your children)?

**HOST Guidance:** God's Spirit wants to write upon our hearts his truth, his love and grace, and his compassion, in ways that can be read by those around you. Of course, our children are reading the lives of their parents every day to see what to do, how to think, and how to navigate life. What a hugely important role and responsibility! We need to be consistent and intentional in writing the right kind of message. We cannot do it alone- we need God's daily power and grace. And we need the help of family, friends and the Church to do this well!

# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



**Read Prov. 13:24 and Hebrews 12:8-11.**

Discuss the challenge of finding the right level and shape of “discipline” needed in parenting. How much of a challenge is that (or was that) for you as a parent?

The Hebrews passage talks about how God disciplines us for our good. How have you experienced God’s discipline in your life? Have you experienced the good that God intends to come from His discipline?

**HOST Guidance:** Many parents struggle with the right level of discipline to provide for their children and there are many different views on what discipline should look like in the home. Often, Moms and Dads struggle to agree on one approach to discipline. God is committed to shaping our heart and soul through loving discipline. He knows discipline can be unpleasant at the moment, but it yields fruit in the long run.

**Read Eph. 6:4.** Discuss what it means or looks like for a father/parent to “provoke a child to anger.” What are the dangers in “provoking a child to anger”? Can you relate to that in your personal experience as a child or a parent?

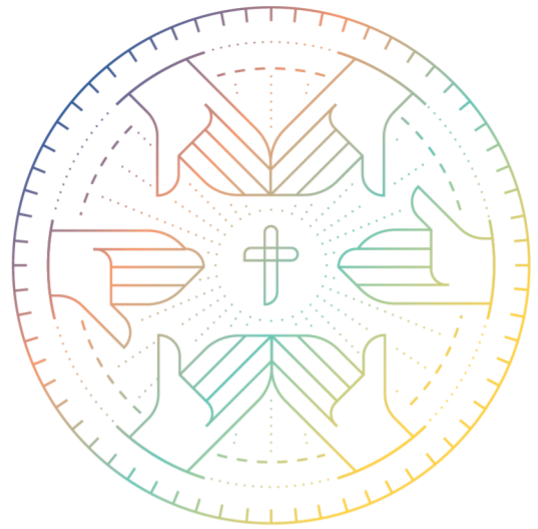
**HOST Guidance:** The Faithful Study Bible says, “In first-century Greco-Roman society, fathers—as the head of the household—had complete authority within the household to administer discipline. Paul advises them to avoid exercising that authority in ways that might cause their children to harbor resentment. Paul is advocating for fathers treating their children with kindness, which would have been unexpected for Greco-Roman society; he is arguing that parents treat their children as Christ would.”

**Read Psalm 103:13.** List and discuss the many ways our Heavenly Father shows compassion toward us. Discuss how those compassionate ways of God can translate to parenting, even if the children are now adults.

# Group Life.

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## APPLICATION (20 MINUTES)

**Host Guidance:** Below are several separate application questions for your group to consider and discuss. Choose as many questions as you have time to discuss and as you consider which questions might have the greatest impact on the group.

No matter whether you are a parent, grandparent, relative or friend, those around you are reading the letter that is being written by your life. Share with your group one message you hope they are gleaning through watching your life?

David mentioned how we sometimes push our children toward things that don't fit them. Did you ever experience that as a child? Or, if a parent, did you ever try to press your child into a mold that perhaps didn't fit them? Share your experience with the group.

- Share one or two things that make you unique as a person. (If with a spouse, can you share one thing that makes your spouse unique?) Discuss how it feels to know that God made you the unique person you are and He loves you in each one of your uniquenesses (Psalm 139:13-16)?

In what ways do you need a Heavenly Father today? Be transparent and vulnerable with your group. Use your answers to help you in the closing time of prayer. God wants you to deeply experience Him as your Father.

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Our Heavenly Father, as we celebrate and honor fathers, we also remember You as our ultimate Father. You are our gracious provider, our constant protector, and our loving guide. We thank You for Your unwavering faithfulness, your unceasing presence, and the many blessings You bestow upon us every day. Your kindnesses toward us are innumerable. Teach us to honor and respect our fathers, and to cherish the gift of family that You have given us. We lift up every father to Your loving embrace. We pray for their well-being, strength, and wisdom as they navigate the challenges and responsibilities of fatherhood. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.