



## KEYS FOR BUILDING **STRONG FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

### **LESSON 8 // HELP, I'M A PARENT!—PART 1**

**Big Idea:** Pastor Dale spoke a great message, specifically about parenting this weekend. Even if you aren't a parent, influence is something we all have. This message can be applied to those we have influence with (friends, family members, co-workers, etc.)

There's no greater privilege and responsibility given to families than raising children. Being a real parent involves significant commitment, effort, energy and engagement to develop the next generation of human beings, family leaders, church members, citizens, society workers and leaders. This requires instruction—parents need to know what to do and how to do it well! The Bible provides guidance that helps parents raise children to become passionate and committed followers of Jesus and responsible, productive contributors to God's Kingdom and society.

**Proverbs 22:6 (TPT)** *Dedicate your children to God and point them in the way that they should go, and the values they've learned from you will be with them for life.*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- Think about God's role as your Heavenly Father. What are some qualities you appreciate most about Him?
- Share a time you felt God's love and/or correction in your life.
- Think about your children or those you have influence with and love. If you could help them develop one characteristic to carry through life, what would it be? (Hard work, kindness, generosity, thankfulness, honor, etc.) Why?
- Using the list Pastor included (authoritarian, permissive, neglectful, authoritative) which parenting style do you lean toward?
- What things can you improve in your parenting style or the way you influence others?

#### **Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God would help you grow in these areas (as a parent, mentor, supervisor or within your realm of influence). Share the changes that you feel you need to make with others in your group and commit to praying for one another throughout this week.

#### **Leader Tip:**

Encourage group members to work on applying these changes this week and share what you will do to begin implementing changes in these areas (as a parent, mentor or influencer).