

Leaders – In this series on parenting, half of every message is meant to be about a different characteristic of God and how it applies to **everyone**. As you get into the discussion that is specific to parenting, feel free to alter questions based on the needs of your group (non-parents, or different seasons of parenting).

- **What is a skill or ability that you would like to learn/grow in?**

The beauty of the Gospel is that Jesus is capable of meeting every person where they are, regardless of their prior knowledge, understanding, or spiritual maturity. Yet, Jesus doesn't leave us where He found us. Just as a loving parent does, Jesus guides and nurtures us towards maturity in our faith.

Have someone volunteer to read Ephesians 4:14-15

- **When in your life have you been vulnerable to be “tossed by the waves” in spiritual immaturity as the Apostle Paul described?**

The question is not about when we've felt tossed around by difficult circumstances, or change, but rather when we've been tempted to believe something “by the cunning and craftiness of people.” Have your group think through when they were new believers and didn't quite know as much about what was true and what wasn't. It is when we are spiritually immature that it is hard to distinguish God's truth from the cunning teaching of others.

- **Why does God want us to move beyond spiritual infancy into spiritual maturity?**

Many times, the driving reason for choosing to follow Jesus is to be spared the consequence of Hell, but God desires so much more for us. God wants us to continue to grow beyond our initial maturity and to continue to learn more about Him and to develop as followers. **We had a lot of discussion about this topic on the podcast.**

Have someone volunteer to read Hebrews 5:13-14

- **What does it look like for someone to grow into “solid food” maturity as a follower of Jesus?**

The analogy is very relatable, as we think about how we moved from milk to solid food as we matured growing up. “Solid food” maturity does not entail an accumulation of more knowledge alone, but a deeper understanding and practice of God's commands. There are many ways this could look, but a very simple way to explain it is to DO what Jesus commanded – applying the Scriptures. This could also look like movement on our Disciple Making Pathway (**check the podcast for this**). Moving from discovering faith to developing and deploying faith in Jesus. Becoming a “self-feeder” and then helping others to grow as well.

God nurtures our faith. As parents, we have the same responsibility with our children. We are not only protectors and providers, but also the primary disciple makers in our children's lives. One of the ways God can grow spiritually is by helping to develop the faith of others.

Have someone volunteer to read Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- **How does helping develop the faith of others grow us?**

Teaching others helps us to learn/better understand what we're teaching ourselves. Teaching others stretches us by having to apply what we're learning in our own lives. This is frequently something we hear shared by small group leaders of all ages. This question can be an opportunity for you to share how leading your group helps you to grow and also an opportunity to challenge your group to identify people they can help grow spiritually.

– **What does it look like to help your children/others grow in their spiritual maturity?**

We had great discussion on this topic on the leader podcast (@ 17:33 into the podcast). We need to recognize that the church is meant to be a partner in the discipleship of our children. We are here to help in so many ways, but parents are meant to be disciple makers in their children's lives. The hope with this question is also that your group shares some really simple and practical ways they have helped their family/children. Encourage your group to start somewhere and celebrate the small victories. Even the moments of praying before meals, talking about God in the car, etc. are wins and can be a place to start.

– **What have you learned about God's love from being a parent?**

Laugh about and highlight God's patience compared to ours as parents. Everything we feel for our kids is but a portion of what God feels for us. Parenting is a great reminder of God's love for us.

The Apostle Paul reminded us that we were to train ourselves to become more spiritually disciplined and mature. It was an encouragement to not be content with where we currently are, but to actively work to become more mature.

Have someone volunteer to read 1 Timothy 4:7-8

– **What is a next step you can take to grow spiritually?**

Paul describes that we should train to become more mature. We do not suddenly wake up that way, it takes work. Help your group think about what their next step may be, and encourage them to celebrate even the small steps. There are times we take leaps in faith, but many times we grow by taking smaller steps. Lead your group to think about what theirs may be.

Beyond Campaign Update

Given to date - \$151,894. Outstanding pledges - \$51,600
Current total of \$203,494

End your group time with some guided prayer for The Pointe Church

- **Inspection** – Inspections are taking place with the buildings that have been gifted to The Pointe Church. These must be done before construction can begin. Pray for good reports and no Asbestos.
- **Building Team** – Pray for the team that is planning the scope of the build and making plans for the future of these buildings/spaces.
- **Mission Teams** – Pray for the teams headed to Seattle this summer who plan to help with demo and building preparation.