

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).

- **Do you have any pet peeves? (what situations do you find yourself the most impatient?)**

Try to keep this question funny and lighthearted. We will go deeper into the things that test our patience later in our discussion.

We live in a culture of impatience, where we continually feel the need to do more and be faster, making patience a rare commodity. Yet, patience is central to God's character and how He chooses to love and lead us.

Have someone volunteer to read 2 Peter 3:8-9 & Romans 2:4

- **Why is God patient with sinners?**

God's patience is an extension of His grace. 2 Peter says that He exhibits patience because He wishes more people to come to repentance and new life. Even as sinners disobey, God displays patience so that they have an opportunity to turn to Him.

- **How does God's patience and restraint lead people to believe more than His wrath?**

Romans 2 describes how it is God's kindness that leads people to turn to Him. **An important distinction to bring up is that God's patience is not indifference.** God is patient, but there WILL be consequences for our choices in the end and whether we chose to place our trust in Jesus. A great way we can see how Jesus led with patience is to think about all the interactions He had with sinners. He knew their stories and failures, yet He welcomed them with grace and patience.

Have someone volunteer to read Psalm 78:38

- **How has God been patient with you?**

This is an opportunity to be personal and for people to share pieces of their stories where they can look back on and see God's patience for THEM. It could be before they were a Christ follower, it could be a mean spirit, or a habitual sin, etc.

- **In what area of your life are you struggling to demonstrate patience?**

This is where you can lead your group to open up about the more difficult things that test our patience. It may be a person, a situation at work, or a setting (getting little kids out the door every morning), etc.

Parenting is SLOW work. Instilling values and shaping mature followers of Jesus takes time. In a microwave world, parenting is crock-pot work. Patience is both incredibly important and difficult in the work of parenting.

Have someone volunteer to read Proverbs 16:32

- **What makes a patient person more influential than a mighty one? What does that look like in parenting?**

This proverb is contrary to what we feel so many times. We look to strength and might to fix things or solve parenting issues, but it's a great reminder of what truly works. Many times, our

natural reflex in parenting is might, but patience carries more influence. This can also be a great time to remind your group that parenting is slow work. We like to see immediate results, but it takes time to grow and develop children into mature and wise people.

– **What has parenting taught you about God's patience?**

You can refer back to the earlier question about how God is patient with us. When we think about our own parenting and the difficulty of patience, it is a great reminder of how truly amazing God's patience for us is.

– **What are some practical ways we can attempt to be more patient in our parenting?**

This is an opportunity for your group to share practical things that have worked for them, or just brain storm ideas for different situations. We mention a few on the podcast and some in Sunday morning's message. You can also reference some of the parenting books we've recommended on Sunday.

Beyond Campaign Update

Given to date - \$163,722. Outstanding pledges - \$51,000

Current total of \$214,722

End your group time with some guided prayer for the unreached and the unchurched people that we hope to reach through our Beyond Campaign.

- **Unchurched in Seattle** – Pray for those who do not know Jesus in the greater Seattle area that we hope to reach through The Pointe Church and NAMB's work in the city.
- **Unreached around the world** – Pray for those who do not know Jesus in the areas served by the International Mission Board. Pray that God would open doors in the communities and open hearts in the people who the missionaries interact with.
- **Unchurched in Brazoria County** – Pray for those who do not know Jesus in our own county. Pray that as we give generously to further God's Kingdom in places far from here, that God would also give us opportunities to reach the people around us.