

SOUTHWEST LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

“Baby Blessing Sunday – 3-4-07”

OPEN:

- Share some childhood stories about being taught about God’s love for us. Who were the people who taught you and how did they do it?
- Did anyone in this group NOT get taught about God’s love growing up? What was that like?

NOTE: If you have children in your Lifegroup, consider doing a shortened version of this lesson (or not doing it at all) and just play with the children tonight, looking for ways to teach them about God’s love as you play.

DIG: Even though this is a teaching from Paul to Timothy regarding his ministry to people, read **2 Timothy 4:1-5** as if it were a charge to parents concerning their children.

Vs. 1 – Who will be the judge of a parent’s parenting?

- Is this relieving or scary news, in your opinion?

Vs. 2 - What does it mean to “preach the Word” in the context of raising children?

- What is our culture preaching to children these days?
- Have/did you (or your parents) ever get caught “unprepared” in your parenting? Share stories and examples of some of the difficulties.
- In the charge to “*correct, rebuke, and encourage...*”
 - a. Define and distinguish between each one.
 - b. Which one do you feel you do most naturally? Which one do you need to work on?
 - c. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, it says, “*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*” All three of these elements of life are of monumental importance, but love is the greatest. Of the three charges here, do think there is a “greatest one”? Which one and why?
- Share some stories or reasons that you see the need for “*great patience and careful instruction*” in parenting.

Vs. 3-4 – Could these three things be said about growing children?

- What can be done about this? Is there any full-proof way to address this?
- What did your parents do? What are you (or have you seen others) do?
- What role does our faith in God’s parenting of our children play in addressing this?

Vs. 5 – Use the four charges of this verse as an evaluation tool of your current or past parenting (or just for your life with people in general):

For each area, discuss: 1) How are you doing with this? And 2) What do you need from God to grow in this area?

- “Keep your head in all situations.”
- “Endure hardship.”
- “Do the work of an evangelist.”
- “Discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

PRAY: End in prayer for each other concerning these areas:

1. Help from God in your personal parenting
2. Gratitude for your own parent’s efforts, and forgiveness for them where needed.
3. Forgiveness for your own parenting flaws, and grace for our children in those areas.
4. For the all the families with new babies at Southwest.