

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of September 6, 2015

**This Week's Focus:** Wisdom defines godly parenting as seeking the best interest of children by teaching them that the God of the gospel is holy, but also patient, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. **Hebrews 12:5-7**

"The focus of punishment is always past tense: 'First you did this, then you did this, and now you have to pay the price.' In His mercy, God wiped away all eternal, spiritual implications of our pasts; He doesn't treat His children according to the rules of punishment. Discipline, on the other hand, is future-focused, always pointing toward future acts. It has nothing to do with retribution and everything to do with redemption." **Chip Ingram**

**Related Texts:** Proverbs 3:11, 10:1, 13:24, 17:25, 20:20, 22:6, 22:15, 23:22-25, 29:15-17; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Genesis 5:1-3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12; Genesis 18:19; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21; Hebrews 12:5-11.

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What was most inspiring about this week's sermon/text?
- Who is responsible for a child's spiritual life? What are parents responsible for? Reference Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 6:5-9. Who alone can grant life to a child's heart? Do you tend to lean toward control or passivity? How can we live in balance of these two extremes?
- Why is spiritual formation important in a child's life? In other words, what is every child's default spiritual condition? Reference Genesis 5:1-3, Psalm 51:5, Proverbs 22:15, and Romans 5:12.
- How can parents wisely train their child in godliness? How can parents live as godly examples

for their children?

- What is the difference between punishment and discipline? What does it mean that punishment is retributive and discipline is future-focused? How does understanding the difference help us better see and love God and the Gospel?
- Does a parent have the right and authority to demand that a child obey? Reference Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21. From whom does a parent receive this authority? To whom is every parent ultimately subject to? How can this truth practically change the way you parent your children?
- Is physical correction ("corporal punishment") condoned in Scripture? Reference Proverbs 22:15, 29:15-17, and 13:24. Is this the only method of punishment that should be used? Explain how the corporal punishment described in Proverbs is not the same as physical abuse. Discuss how the wisdom of knowing and loving your child well can help you determine the best method of discipline for him/her.
- "Requiring obedience is not the same as requiring perfection." Do you agree with that statement? Do you demand perfection from your children?
- How can we parent in a way that displays the patience, love, and grace of God? What are some practical ways we can influence our children (young or old) to seek God, love God, and live on Gospel mission?