

**Building A Foundation For The Family Series**  
**Message # 3: What God Wants Every Parent to Know**

Core Group Discussion Guide

November 11, 2018

**Message Overview:**

- Effective parenting knows both its **limitations** and its **potential**.
- Even great parenting cannot guarantee the outcome of a child's life.
- You cannot always control a teenager's behavior, you cannot force moral attitudes, you cannot perceive the final products.
- We need to remind ourselves that good parenting can – aim for right values, show consistent love, teach self-control, model forgiveness, and demonstrate faith in Jesus Christ.
- Effective parenting makes the tools available to a young person so that he or she can choose a complete life.
- As parents we should give our children two things ...
  - (1) **ROOTS** – that's the security system they need.
  - (2) **WINGS** – to go out and live a productive life.
- You can never pray for your children too much!

**Text:** Ephesians 6:1-4

**Questions for Discussion:**

- **OPEN IT –**
  1. What are some of the enjoyable aspects of being a parent?
  2. How do you treat children differently than the way your parents treated you?
- **EXPLORE IT –**
  1. What does it mean to "*honor your father and mother*"? (Eph. 6:2-3)  
NOTE: Honoring your father and mother doesn't stop when you leave home.
  2. What does God want fathers NOT to do? (Eph. 6:4)
  3. What does God want fathers TO DO? (Eph. 6:4)
  4. How should children be reared and nourished? (Eph. 6:4)
  5. How is the Lord to be the center of parent-child relationships? (Eph. 6:4)
- **GET IT –**
  1. Why is it easier for children to obey fair and loving parents than unreasonable and demanding parents?
  2. How do you feel about your ability to be a good parent?
  3. How can the Lord support you in your role as a parent?
  4. How can a parent avoid exasperating his or her own children?
- **APPLY IT –**
  1. What can you do to **improve** or **strengthen** your relationship with your parents and/or your children?
  2. What do you need to do to nurture healthy family relationships this week?