

Parenting in the 21st Century



WEEK THREE

MON 10/11

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Philippians 2:3-4
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Put others first. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." [NIV] To truly honor someone you love, you must be willing to put their needs ahead of your own. That's not easy!
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, help me be aware of the needs of the ones I love. Give me a deeper love for them, and transform the way I think so that I honor them with my actions. Amen.

NOTES: _____

TUES 10/12

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Galatians 5:22-23
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Connect with God. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." [NIV] When we stay connected with God, we renew our resolve to live like Christ. God's Spirit in us empowers us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, thank you for your Spirit of love in me. I'm sorry that I do not always acknowledge you or seek your guidance as I make choices, but I want to get better at living moment to moment with you in control. Amen.

NOTES: _____

WED 10/13

- ✓ **SCRIPTURE** Proverbs 31:26
- ✓ **THOUGHT** Speak with kindness. "When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness." [NLT] It is hard to watch our words, particularly when we have been hurt or disappointed. Bring to mind someone who you might have said something to this week that deserves an apology. Ask God to give you the courage and humility to make it right.
- ✓ **PRAYER** God, help me hear your still, small voice when I am tempted to say things that are not loving. It is your love in me that helps me control my words. I pray you would give me a nudge when I am speaking without thinking. Amen.

NOTES: _____

Parenting in the 21st Century



WEEK THREE

THURS 10/14

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 3:8
- ✓ THOUGHT Compassion matters. "Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." [NIV] Showing our loved ones concern for their suffering strengthens our relationships. Especially when our advice isn't taken, we want to offer, "I told you so," rather than, "I'm so sorry you are struggling". Which would you rather hear after making a poor choice?
- ✓ PRAYER God of grace, I want to be someone who is compassionate and full of grace for others. Help me always remember to treat the people I love as I would want to be treated. Amen.

NOTES: _____

FRI 10/15

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Acts 20:35
- ✓ THOUGHT Loan someone your strength. "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" [NIV] Is there someone that you can help out today? Be ready and willing!
- ✓ PRAYER Lord, put someone in my path today to whom I can lend strength. Show me how to help others in a way that is encouraging and comforting. Amen.

NOTES: _____

SAT 10/16

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 4:8
- ✓ THOUGHT Love matters most. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." [NIV] Honoring those around us means choosing love despite their faults. Choosing to respect someone even if they are not perfect is challenging but demonstrates Christ-like humility. Do you find it easy or hard to overlook the faults of others?
- ✓ PRAYER Gracious God, I know I am far from perfect. Thank you for continuing to mold and shape me into a more loving person. Remind me today to let go of whatever unrealistic expectations I might have for those around me. Amen.

NOTES: _____

GROUP GUIDE

- ✓ **PRAYER** **God, we acknowledge that you are already here. May our hearts be open to your presence and direction. Amen.**

- ✓ **BIG IDEA** **When children make mistakes, our tendency is to take something away from them. However, punishment isn't the end goal of discipline. Restoration should be.**

- ✓ **READ** **Hebrews 12:11**

- ✓ **DISCUSS**
 - When it comes to discipline, what is one thing you are glad your parents did? What's something you wish they had done?

 - Were your parents more inclined to loan you their strength or remind you of your weaknesses? As a parent or caregiver, which one are you more inclined to do?

 - Give an example of where you prioritized siding with your child before disciplining them. Discuss why it is easier and more natural to discipline first. How can we get better at siding with our children first?

 - Growing up, would you say your home was characterized by mutual respect and honor? What about your current family?

 - Read Hebrews 12:11. What stands out to you?

 - According to the author, what is the goal of discipline? What is your goal as you discipline?

- ✓ **Pray** **Gracious God, help us to remember that honoring others is superior to simple obedience. We want to value the relationships you have blessed us with and model how to treat others with honor and respect. Thank you for the love you have shown us and guide us as we share that with our families. Amen.**