

Icebreaker (*Pick one*):

1. What's something you've tried really hard to get better at, only to discover you needed a different strategy?

2. What's something you appreciate about the way you were parented?

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

We all want to be extraordinary parents. But our strategy has often been to just try harder! Jesus offers a different strategy. As we become serious students of Jesus, we experience a Father who utterly delights in us and patiently forms us. Slowly but surely, we begin to parent in a new way. ***Phenomenal parenting becomes the result of discipleship!***

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

MATTHEW 11:28-30

1. Why do you think parenting can leave us so tired, frustrated, and discouraged?
2. What's the difference between trying harder to become a great parent and becoming a student of Jesus who naturally becomes a better parent?

3. As we take his yoke (his teaching) upon us, what is one practical thing we might learn that could radically impact the way that we parent?

LUKE 6:45

4. What does Jesus teach us about the relationship between what's in our hearts and what comes out of our mouths?

5. Why is trying to control what we say often an exhausting and unsuccessful parenting strategy?

6. What do we discover about God's heart as we become his disciples? How might experiencing his delight in us change the way we delight in our children?

MATTHEW 14:28-33

7. How does Jesus respond when Peter tries, fails, and cries out for help?

8. What can we learn from Jesus about helping our children when they fail? How is his approach different from some of our typical reactions?

PULLING IT TOGETHER:

- What might change in our parenting if we focused less on trying harder and more on becoming serious students of Jesus?

FURTHER STUDY — READ MARK 10:13-16

- Jesus is delighting in these little ones. Is there anything more important than for a parent to delight in their children?
- Why do we resist being formed by someone who doesn't utterly delight in us?