

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

Relationships: Week Two — Parenting

Teaching by Pastor Ken

WARM-UP QUESTION

What's one thing about parenting that is harder than you expected, or that you've learned from watching others raise their children?

DISCUSS

1. Let God Build Your House

Parenting is one of the greatest responsibilities and blessings God gives us. But it's also hard work! We want to do everything right, protect our kids from mistakes, and prepare them for life. The reality is, we can't do it all on our own.

Psalm 127 reminds us that unless the Lord builds the house, our efforts are in vain. We have a responsibility to love, teach, discipline, and guide our children, but we need God's wisdom and help every step of the way.

Read Psalm 127:1–5.

- What does it look like to let God build your home instead of trying to do everything in your own strength?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God with our children and the things we can't control?
- How does seeing children as a gift from God change our perspective, especially during the difficult seasons?

2. Your Example Is Your Greatest Influence

More is caught than taught.

We can tell our kids what matters, but they're watching how we live. They notice how we treat people, how we handle disagreements, how we respond when things don't go our way, and whether we actually live out our faith.

In Deuteronomy 6, God tells parents to teach their children about Him throughout everyday life. Not just at church or during a Bible lesson, but at home, on the road, and in the ordinary moments of the day.

Our greatest influence often comes from the example we set.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4–9.

- What are some things children learn by watching us that we may not even realize we're teaching?
- How can we make talking about God and living out our faith a more natural part of everyday life?
- Who modeled a genuine relationship with Jesus for you? What made their example so meaningful?

3. Parent for the Season You're In

One challenge of parenting is recognizing that **the way we parent needs to change as our children grow.**

Pastor Ken shared four stages of parenting:

- **Ages 1–5: Discipline.** Establish boundaries and teach children right from wrong.
- **Ages 5–12: Training.** Develop good habits, responsibility, and character.
- **Ages 12–18: Coaching.** Help teenagers make decisions, learn from mistakes, and become more independent.
- **Ages 18+: Friendship.** Build an adult relationship where you continue to encourage, support, and offer wisdom.

Our job isn't to make every decision for our children forever. It's to prepare them to make wise decisions on their own.

Sometimes that means letting them make mistakes and face consequences while they're still in a safe environment.

In 1 Kings 1:5–6, we see the consequences of King David failing to correct his son Adonijah. Loving our children means being willing to guide and correct them, even when it's uncomfortable.

Read 1 Kings 1:5–6.

- Why is it sometimes easier to step in and fix things for our kids than to let them learn from their mistakes?
- How do we know when it's time to give our children more responsibility and independence?
- What's the difference between loving discipline and trying to control everything?

4. Do Your Part and Trust God with the Rest

Parenting was never meant to be done alone.

We need other people in our children's lives who will encourage them, speak truth to them, and help point them toward Jesus. That's one reason being connected to a church family matters so much.

Pastor Ken also reminded us to enjoy our kids! Make your home a place where they want to be. Have fun together. Build relationships. Don't get so caught up in correcting every little thing that you miss the bigger picture.

And remember, **you don't have to be a perfect parent to be faithful.**

When God called Gideon, Gideon didn't feel qualified. He saw all the reasons he couldn't do what God was asking. But God told him to go in the strength he had and promised to be with him.

That's a great reminder for parents and for all of us. God isn't asking us to have everything figured out. He's asking us to be faithful with what He's given us and trust Him along the way.

Read Judges 6:11–16.

- How can we be more intentional about surrounding the next generation with people who encourage their faith?
- What are some simple ways to make our homes places where our kids enjoy spending time and having conversations?
- Where are you feeling inadequate or overwhelmed right now? How does God's promise to Gideon encourage you?

CLOSING REFLECTION

What's one thing God is challenging you to do differently after this week's teaching?

Maybe it's trusting Him more, being a better example, changing how you approach a relationship with your children, making more time for family, or simply remembering that you don't have to get everything right.

Share one practical step you can take this week.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the gift of family and for the people You've placed in our lives. Give us wisdom to lead, patience when things get difficult, and courage to do what's right even when it's not easy. Help us set an example that points others toward You. Remind us that we don't have to have all the answers because You are with us. Help us do our part faithfully and trust You with the rest. In Jesus' name, amen.