

Parenting in Progress

Sunday Recap Guide

Encouragement

Start by checking in with everyone in the group.

Icebreaker / Check-In Questions

- What was a high from your week?
- What was a low from your week?
- What's one thing that made you laugh this week?
- What part of Sunday's message stood out to you the most?

Group Encouragement

Parenting can feel overwhelming, exhausting, and messy at times — but Psalm 127 reminds us that children are a gift from the Lord. Whether your kids are toddlers, teenagers, adults, or you hope to be a parent someday, God invites us into partnership with Him. Parenting is not about perfection; it's about purposeful progress.

“WE'RE NOT DONE YET.”

God is still forming our children — and He's still forming us too.

Scripture

Main Scripture

Psalm 127:3–5 (NLT)

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him... Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.”

Deep Dive Discussion

1. Parenting Is Always “In Progress”

- Why do you think it’s important to remember that parenting is a process?
- How does giving yourself grace change the way you parent?
- What are some ways God has grown YOU through parenting?

2. “Arrows Must Be Formed”

Children are shaped intentionally — not accidentally.

- What does our culture try to “form” children into today?
- Why is it dangerous to let culture do all the shaping?
- What are some practical ways we can intentionally form godly values in our homes?

3. “Parenting Is Preparation”

The message emphasized that parenting prepares children for life.

- Which parenting stage are you currently in?
 - Control Years (0–5)
 - Values Years (6–12)
 - Coaching Years (13–18)
 - Consultant Years (19+)
- What challenges come with your current stage?
- What wisdom or encouragement could you offer someone in a different stage?

4. “Formation Always Involves Friction”

- Why do you think friction is often necessary for growth?
- Can you think of a difficult season in your life that God later used for good?
- How can parents balance grace and correction well?

5. “Arrows Must Be Aimed”

- What does purposeful parenting look like practically?
- What are some ways families can keep God at the center of the home?
- How can we help our children discover God’s purpose for their lives?

6. “Arrows Are Designed to Be Released”

- Why can releasing children into adulthood be difficult?
- What does healthy release look like?

- How can parents trust God with their children's future?
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Key Takeaways

- Parenting is a process, not a performance.
 - Our goal is not just raising “good kids,” but godly kids.
 - Formation requires intention.
 - Friction is often part of growth.
 - Parenting changes with every season.
 - Children ultimately belong to God.
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Prayer

Spend time praying together as a group.

Prayer Prompts

- Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting.
- Pray for unity in marriages and families.
- Pray for children and students to know God personally.
- Pray for parents carrying guilt, exhaustion, or anxiety.
- Pray for prodigal sons and daughters to return to God.
- Pray that families in the church would reflect God's love and truth.

Suggested Group Prayer

“God, thank You for the gift of children and family. Help us parent with purpose, wisdom, patience, and grace. Teach us how to form, guide, and release our children according to Your will. Heal what is broken in families, strengthen weary parents, and help us trust You in every season. May our homes honor You and point the next generation toward Jesus. Amen.”

Next Steps

Personal Next Steps

- Pray intentionally over your children every night this week.
- Read Psalm together as a family.
- Identify one value you want to intentionally build into your home.
- Have one meaningful conversation with your child this week.
- Ask God: “How can I better aim my arrows?”

Family Next Steps

- Attend church together consistently.
- Start a simple family prayer routine.
- Choose one scripture to memorize together this month.
- Limit one distraction that is shaping your home more than God’s Word.

Church Next Steps

- Join or serve in Kids or Student Ministry.
- Invite another family to church next Sunday.
- Continue attending the “Parenting in Progress” series each week.
- Celebrate baptisms and what God is doing in families across the church.