**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr September 25, 2022**

**Parenting Matters**

Ephesians 6:4

**Key Truth**: Growing up in a Christian home is to be a positive, encouraging experience for parents, children, and the Kingdom of God.

**The Wrong View Of Children:**

1. They are a burden.

2. They are to be worshipped.

**The Biblical View Of Children:**

1. They are a blessing from God. Psalm 127:3-5

2. They are sinners who need to be discipled to follow

 Jesus Christ. Proverbs 22:6, 22:15, Deuteronomy 6:4-6

**Practical Advice For Parents:**

1. Parents are to be their children’s biggest

 encourager.

2. Don’t outsource discipleship. Deuteronomy 6:4-6

3. Don’t discipline your children when you are angry.

4. Teach your children that there are consequences

 for disobedience.

5. Always tell your kids how much you love them.

6. Don’t try to protect your kids from failure.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Pray that as parents we would embrace the responsibility to parent our children in a godly way.

**Connection Group Study Questions:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

In general, how did your parents discipline you? Do you think the way they disciplined you helped or hurt you growing up?

How do you think the way you related to your parents has shaped the way you see God?

Why is it important for parents to see their responsibility for their kids and at the same time help kids see they are responsible for their own choices? How can that happen?

Read Proverbs 22:6: Does this verse mean that children in godly homes never leave the faith or make bad choices? If not, what does it mean?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9: What was the truth parents were to teach their children? How were they supposed to teach these truths?

What would this kind of teaching look like today?

What do you think it means to “impress” God’s commandments on your children (v. 7)?

Read Ephesians 6:4: How can parents bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord?

What is the responsibility of the church in the homes that don’t have fathers?