

# Practical Parenting

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## *Study notes for Care Groups*

*Based on Sermon Given Sunday, 21/06/09*

The following questions are designed to facilitate discussions over the Father' Day sermon given at GBC. They are not designed to be the only source of material, but as a supplement to be used by the group for their time together. If your CG is with teens, you can switch the questions so they are answered from the perspective of a teenager, i.e. "What does loving your parents mean to you?" "Why is it so hard for us to spend time with our parents?"

### WHAT FACTORS DO YOU FACE AS A PARENT THAT MAKE IT SUCH A GREAT CHALLENGE & WHY?

Read the following verses: 1 John 4:9-10, 11; Titus 2:4; Psalm. 103:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What does loving your children mean to you? Why is it so important to love them? What are some of the major challenges you face trying to "love" your children?

Read 1 John 3:18. What does this verse say about loving others? [John was fond of referring to his readers as "children".]

We need to balance our expression of love to our children with both our words and works. What is the most common ways we express our love for our children?

Two practical and powerful ways of loving our children were given in the message – spending time with them and praying for them. Of the two, which is the hardest for you & why?

The bible gives parents five activities to concentrate on to help make the time with our children positive and productive. They were:

- focusing on them (undivided attention, Mk. 10:16);
- listening (James. 1:17);
- seeking understanding (1 Kings 3:9);
- playing (Proverbs 17:22);
- accepting & appreciating (Proverbs 15:23b).

Which of these areas is the hardest for you and why?

What do you think about the statement, “Kids don’t care about what you think, until they think you care”?

In terms of praying for your children, what are some of the things you pray for your children and why?

Parents who wanted to become stronger, godly parents were exhorted to pray for wisdom and for courage? Which of these two is the greatest need of the hour for you and why?

Read Psalm 37:23-24 in different versions. How does this verse encourage you as a parent? How important is the part of the verse that says, “...*the Lord is the One, who holds his hand.*”?

Pray for one another and for one another’s children.