

Session #1-
Text: 2 Timothy 1
The Goal of Parenting

ICEBREAKER: I want to be a _____ parent. How would you fill that blank in? What word would you fill in that blank to describe your parents?

1. What is your goal of parenting? (Nathan's definition was to produce mature, responsible, godly, adults). Without clarity on the goal, you'll never know if you're being successful or not.

Read 2 Tim. 1:2. Paul spoke blessings and truth over his spiritual son. He believed in him, saw something special in him that he wanted to draw out. WORDS MATTER.

2. What does it mean to speak life over your family? How can your words and belief in your kids alter their future (for the good of the bad)? Do you remember words from your childhood that proved that your parents believed in you?

Read Proverbs 18:21 as King Solomon explains the power that you and I have in our words.

3. What words and phrases build a child up, and give them life? What words or phrases tear them down and bring death?

Read 2 Tim 1:3, and notice how Paul PRAYED CONSTANTLY for his spiritual son.

4. How often do you pray for your kids? When you pray for them, what are you asking of God? If God answered all of the prayers you prayed about your children, how would their life be any different?

5. Paul was thankful for Timothy, and was sure to tell him. Do you think it's important for parents to tell their kids how thankful they are for them? What kind of heart are you cultivating in your child by parenting with a sense of gratitude?

Read 2 Tim. 1:4 and see the emotion and affection that Paul had for Timothy. Paul had obviously INVESTED SELFLESSLY in his spiritual son over a long period of time.

6. Other than providing for their physical needs, how are you investing selflessly into your children?

Read 2 Timothy 1:5, and notice the lineage of spiritual ancestors that Timothy has in his mother and grandmother. They LEFT AN INHERITANCE to Timothy of true significance.

7. When your kids are adults, how would LIKE this blank to be filled in: "My dad/mom was all about _____. I learned a lot about _____ from them."

8. Do an evaluation of your personal faith (all aspects of life, from generosity, service, and time management, to pray and Bible study and intimacy with God). Is the faith that you have worth modeling? Would you be proud of your kids spiritually if their relationship with God was just like yours? If not, what would you change?

9. Everyone wants to teach their kids money management skills, people skill, and a hard work ethic. Most parents want to teach their kids how to be successful. But what are you doing to make sure you are making spiritual deposits into your children?

Read 2 Tim 1:6, and watch how Paul looks back at his investment into Timothy. He is definitely **PLAYING THE LONG GAME.**

10. What are things that you can do every day to fan the flame in the lives of your kids spiritually? Emotionally? Relationally?