



SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION



IN THIS SESSION

This Session will introduce the concepts we will find throughout the remainder of this Study. We will explore some of the common fears and emotions associated with parenting and offer some guiding thoughts as we begin this journey together.



KEY PASSAGES

- **Ephesians 6:1-4** ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- **Genesis 1:26-28a** ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said, to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it....”



DISCUSS

- What are your biggest concerns as a parent as you are looking to bring your child(ren) from “raw to refined?” How do these thoughts/emotions/feelings typically drive the way you interact with your child(ren)? How might God’s design for parenting and His desire to generously provide you with the necessary tools for success change your outlook on the role and responsibilities you have as a parent?
- Consider sharing a moment or an experience in your past that has made you feel inadequate, unprepared, or ill-equipped in your parenting. What was it about this story that caused you to feel the way you did? As you reflect on this experience, be reminded of the concept of stewardship explained in the Session. How does the idea of “parenting is stewardship” change your perspective and cause you to reinterpret moments when you feel a sense of failure?
- What are you hoping to accomplish or gain by going through this Study? In other words, what are your goals and expectations as you begin this process? Write down those goals and expectations now, as you will have an opportunity to cross-reference them upon completion of the last Session.



PRAY

- Discipling the family in the way God desires is a challenging task—furthermore, it is an impossibility without God’s help! Pray that He will develop a desire in you to follow His perfect guidance in your parenting and that you will come to know the power of His Spirit at your disposal. Be encouraged to openly and honestly speak

out your fears, frustrations, and failures to Him...He is a God who hears, understands, and provides opportunities for growth in this area!