

# Season of Parenting



Collegiate Quarterly

## Teacher's Guide

### Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, tape, board, markers

### Surveying the Source

Ps. 127:3; Prov. 22:6; Luke 18:15–17; 1 Cor. 11.1; 1 Pet. 5:6, 7; James 1:17

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Be able to identify some qualities of a good parent.
- ▶ Realize the impact parents have on children.

- ▶ Be able to identify how Jesus is an example of being a good parent.

### Preparing to Lead

Consider your parents. Think of ways they have exhibited good parenting skills. Now think of ways they might have come up short.

Being a parent is a true gift from God and it can test your faith and patience. Even though Jesus on earth was never a

typical parent, He was the best example of what a parent could be. He showed kindness and unconditional love, yet also discipline and correction. He was the perfect balance between the two forces. Just as Paul strived to imitate Christ, so should we (1 Cor. 11.1).

### Getting Started

**A. Say:** “God took on the full responsibility of becoming our Parent when it was decided that Jesus, His only Son, would be the sacrifice that would save us all. Imitating our heavenly Father as a parent will require endless sacrifice and relentless love, despite the circumstances or outcomes.”

**Ask:** “Can you think of an example where your parent sacrificed for you or showed unconditional love, even though you may not have deserved it? Would someone like to share an example with the class?”

**B. Ask:** “Do we have any parents in the class?” **Say:** “There are many different forms of parenting in our world today. Biological, adoptive, foster, parental figures, and even parents of pets. All the different avenues to becoming a parental figure are valuable. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (NIV). It is important how we parent those that look up to us as they will not easily forget our influence.”

## Delving Into the Word

**A.** Ask someone to read Luke 18:15–17 aloud. Jesus’ main mission on earth was to bring us back to God through His ultimate sacrifice of dying on the cross. And yet, He still had just as much of a mission to show love to even the little children. When the disciples rebuked the people for bringing their babies and children to Him, He countered them by saying that anyone that does not receive the kingdom of heaven like a child, will not enter it. Those were probably shocking words for the religious people of that day to hear. What an example Jesus showed us by caring for those that could easily be overlooked. This is an important thought to dwell on. Psalms 127:3 states, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward” (NKJV). It is a gift to be a child and an even greater gift to have a chance to teach a child in the ways of Christ.

**B.** There are many instances in the Bible that show us that we can fully rely on Jesus for everything we need and all we are worried about. This may not always have been the case with our earthly parents, but that is where the difference lies. Unlike earthly parents, our heavenly Father does not change like shifting shadows as stated in James 1:17. God tells us to cast our anxiety, doubt, and worries on Him.

Ask someone to read aloud 1 Peter 5:6, 7. There may have been times when an earthly parental figure has made a similar promise to you, but may have not been able to follow through. This can be hurtful and make it hard for us to trust again. God, however, will never go back on His promises. He means what He says and will always be there for you. This gives us great reassurance. That is also what makes Him such a great example of what a true parent should be.

Distribute the Reproducible Activity. Once the activity is completed, tape their notes to the board and discuss the responses.

## Discussing the Ideas

1. In your own life, when has God shown you the depths of His love for you, as your Parent?
2. What are some ways we can show Jesus’ example to our own children or children that look up to us?
3. How can studying the Word help us develop our parenting skills?

4. How have your parents showed us Christ’s example in how to be a good parent?

5. Is there a time when you fell short and did not show a child Christ’s example of being a good parental figure?

6. Can you remember a time when you were let down by your earthly parents?

## Closing the Activity

*Ask:* “Have you ever compared God’s character to that of your earthly parents? Perhaps you do not give God enough credit, even though He is the perfect parent? Please explain this in more detail, if comfortable.”

Conclude in prayer for your students’ parents as well as for any parents in your class as well.

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Quality of a Good Parent	How is God this Kind of Parent to You?