

One BRMC Small Group Study

The Attentive Father

Participant's Copy

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 21 June 2020.

Scripture Passage:
Ephesians 6:1-4

Context:

We celebrated Father's Day on 21 June 2020 and on this occasion, our church continues to explore what it means to disciple future generations. Last month (on the occasion of Mother's Day), we explored what it might mean to give ourselves to prayer, to be a good model, and to give our children to the Lord. In the study this week, we explore what it might mean for us, in a fathering role, to disciple another relative - our children, our family members (nephews, nieces, etc) - and those whom the Lord might impress on us to disciple. We also explore the important roles that we might play in and through our small groups.

Introductory

1. What are the key "not to do" responsibilities set out in Ephesians 6:4? Have there been instances where you have done the "not to do"? What lesson can you learn from those events?
2. What are the key "to do" responsibilities set out in Ephesians 6:4? Can you describe these responsibilities? Are there examples of how these responsibilities have been lived out in your family, small group family or the church family?

Reflection

3. What changes in your attitude or behaviour do you think is necessary to live out the prescription in Ephesians 6:4?

4. As a small group, have you been able to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) to help each other live out Ephesians 6:4? How can we all participate in discipling our children?

Application

5. Whether we are a biological parent to children or not, what steps can we take to live out or encourage others to live out Ephesians 6:4? Perhaps we can use the 3 areas of an attentive parent suggested by Pastor Jeremy:

(a) How can we pay (more) attention to our children?

(b) How can we pay (more) attention to their spiritual nurture?

(c) How can we pay (more) attention to our marriages?

Prayer

6. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.

(a) What is in your heart for yourself?

- Perhaps you have the desire to live out Ephesians 6:4:

"Gracious Father, thank you for this conviction in my heart that I must not provoke my child to anger and that I must bring up my child in the discipline and training of the Lord. Help me Father, guide me Holy Spirit, as I submit to You and seek Your ways every day of my life. Amen."

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you want to help others but you don't know how:

“Loving Father, help me to be more like You in Your love and grace, give Your heart of Your children. Grant me wisdom, sensitivity and love that I may serve You in my service of others to help bring up the children in our community in the discipline and training of the Lord. Please grant me opportunities and the courage to enter these opportunities by the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

- It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.