

**1. Longing to be a parent**

- a) Name some individuals in the Scriptures who longed to be parents. Genesis 18:11, 30:1; 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Luke 1:7
- b) Name some individuals in the Scriptures who had no children but served as godly examples to the children within their circle of influence.
- c) What encouragement or counsel might you offer to a friend who is longing to be a parent?

**2. The joy and responsibility of parenting**

- a) Psalm 127:3-5, joys
- b) What are some joys you have experienced as a parent?
- c) Ephesians 6:4, responsibilities
- d) What are your thoughts about the responsibilities of parenting?
- e) Who stands out in the Scriptures as a wonderful example of a godly parent?
- f) What Bible promises encourage you as you face the great responsibility of parenting?

**3. Single parents**

- a) Name some individuals in the Scriptures who faced the challenge of single parenting. Genesis 21:14-19; 1 Kings 17:9-12; Luke 7:12

- b) What are some of the unique challenges faced by single parents?
- c) Read James 1:27 Could "single parent" be appropriately added to that list?
- d) What are some practical ways to help single parents?

**4. Parenting as disciple-making**

- a) Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Why is repetition vitally important when training children?
- b) How important is a parent's example in the process of disciple-making? (see 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- c) Name some parents who disciplined their children effectively. Genesis 18:17-19; Luke 2:52, etc.
- d) What reminder does Solomon give to parents who have sought to train their children in the way of the LORD? Proverbs 6:20-23

**5. Not giving up on a prodigal child**

- a) Proverbs 22:6 What promise do you see in this inspired testimony?
- b) What important lessons can we learn from the loving father in the story of the prodigal son? Luke 15:11-32
- c) What encouragement or counsel might you give to praying parents who have not yet seen their children return home? Jeremiah 31:16-17

