

the
truth
about
loving

CONNECT GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Truth About Loving: Your Children



RENAISSANCE
CHURCH

Read

On Sunday Chris Russell spoke about *Loving Your Children* from Psalm 78:4-7.

⁴ We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.

⁶ So that the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
that they in turn would tell their children.

⁷ Then they would put their trust in God.
and not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

Reflect & Discuss

1. What do you think are some of the greatest challenges when raising children? Consider the various stages of life (e.g., preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, college, adult children) and also the culture in which we live. Share a story about a challenge you've faced as a parent or a challenge you created as child!
2. Children are a gift from God. How have you been blessed by that gift, either through your own children or other children with whom you've interacted? Consider both the joys and the difficulties. How has God used children in your life?
3. Chris said that children help us become less selfish. How have you seen your own selfishness manifested in your interactions with your children? How have you grown in selflessness? How could you improve? If you don't have children, think of interactions you've had with other people's children.
4. What are some of the sacrifices you've made as a parent? How easy or hard were they? How do you feel about having made those sacrifices? Do you wish you had made any other sacrifices? If you're not a parent, what sacrifices did your parents make? What sacrifices have you seen your friends or relatives make? What do you think about those sacrifices?
5. What resources have you found helpful as a parent? What resources would you like to have that you lack? Whether or not you're a parent, how do you think we can help those who are parents? What boundaries, if any, would you draw when giving or receiving advice, help, etc.?

6. Read Psalm 78:4-7 (see above). The writer (Asaph) encourages us to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD” so that they will know what God has done and would put their trust in him.

- What are some of the “praiseworthy deeds” that God has done for you?
- How do you think telling others what God has done for us can help them to trust him?
- How have you grown in your faith because someone else shared with you what God has done for them? Think about books and movies in addition to direct interactions with people you know.
- Why do you think we can be reluctant to speak about what God has done for us? How can we overcome that reluctance?

Personalize It

Let’s personalize and apply what we’ve been discussing.

1. Think about Chris’s sermon, Psalm 78:4-7, and our discussion together. How would you like to grow as a parent? What step(s) would you like to take?
2. How would you like to grow as a resource for (other) parents? What will you do to move toward that goal? Can you think of a specific parent whom you can help?
3. If you’re a parent, how can we pray for you? How can we pray for your children?
4. Being unable to have children or losing a child is extraordinarily painful. If you’ve been unable to have children, or if you’ve lost a child, feel free to share your story with your group. How can we pray for you?

Reflecting on Scripture

Using the *Reflecting on Scripture* guide (see www.renchurch.com/connectgroups), set aside at least ten minutes three days this week to reflect on Psalm 78:4-7. Focus on one verse each day. Limiting yourself to one verse may be challenging, but you’ll benefit from having to dig deeper into that verse.