



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*When you think of the word encourager,
who comes to mind, and why?*

1. What kind of family order have you experienced or created, and has it been healthy; looking like God's design? ([Colossians 3:20](#), [Ephesians 6:1-3](#), [Exodus 20:12](#), [Deuteronomy 5:15](#), [6:4-9](#)) What does repetition in the Bible mean?
2. What does the role and use of power look like in your family compared to God's design? ([Colossians 3:21](#), [Ephesians 6:4](#))
3. Dads, what should your parenting posture look like and how are you doing ([Philippians 2:5-8](#))? Moms, how about you? Not a parent, not a problem; how can you live out this posture?
4. Parents, what is your presence creating in your family? Are you living in the *should* vs. the *can*, and how are you allowing the Holy Spirit to shape you? ([Ephesians 3:16-19](#))
5. We are all part of a family, so let's talk through Pastor Nate's challenges:
 - a. "How active is your presence with your family?"
 - b. "What is your posture while present?"
 - c. "Are you allowing the presence of the Holy Spirit to impact how you engage your family?"

Day One: [Luke 22](#); [Psalm 66](#)

Day Four: [1 Thessalonians 1](#); [Isaiah 66](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 16](#); [Proverbs 4](#)

Day Five: [Job 4](#); [Acts 10](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 1](#); [1 Samuel 17](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

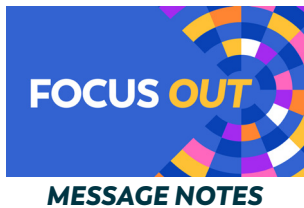


FOCUS OUT

**"PARENTING: BATTLEFIELD
OR PLAYING FIELD?"**

Mar 3, 2024
Pastor Nate Sickler

MYRC.CHURCH



"PARENTING: BATTLEFIELD OR PLAYING FIELD?"

Pastor Nate Sickler

When Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

1. Our world is _____, and the design includes authority which is granted to certain parties in order to create healthy environments... this includes _____ ([Colossians 3:20](#); [Ephesians 6:1-3](#))
(Note [Exodus 20:12](#); [Deuteronomy 5:15, 6:4-9](#))

a. For children, "_____" is not a blanket statement commanding blind obedience. Instead, this is instructed within the context of the _____ and therefore assumes the goodness of the parent and their direction. ([Colossians 3:16a](#); [Colossians 1:20](#))

2. Notice that the exercise of _____ is entirely _____ from Paul's call to families. ([Colossians 3:21](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#))

a. With Jesus as our example, this dramatically changes the _____ of parents, _____ in particular. ([Philippians 2:6-7](#))

b. Can ≠ _____

c. A real _____ is possible in our children.

3. A posture of _____ is only possible through being actively present in our children's lives.

- a. Like firing an arrow at a target, parenting has an _____; the powerful release of a person into their God-given potential to impact the world. ([Psalm 127:3-5a](#))
- b. To be actively present in this way requires the presence of the _____ in our lives. ([Ephesians 3:16-19](#)).

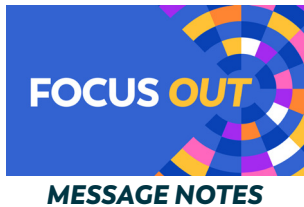
Am I focused OUT?

- How _____ is your presence with your family?
- What is your _____ while present?
- Are you allowing the _____ of the Holy Spirit to impact how you engage your family?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



"PARENTING: BATTLEFIELD OR PLAYING FIELD?"

Pastor Nate Sickler

When Jesus is first place in our lives and everything we do or say is for His praise alone, it will have a positive impact on every relationship and personal encounter we have.

1. Our world is ordered, and the design includes authority which is granted to certain parties in order to create healthy environments... this includes families ([Colossians 3:20](#); [Ephesians 6:1-3](#))
(Note [Exodus 20:12](#); [Deuteronomy 5:15, 6:4-9](#))
 - a. For children, "in everything" is not a blanket statement commanding blind obedience. Instead, this is instructed within the context of the Good News and therefore assumes the goodness of the parent and their direction. ([Colossians 3:16a](#); [Colossians 1:20](#))
2. Notice that the exercise of power is entirely absent from Paul's call to families. ([Colossians 3:21](#); [Ephesians 6:4](#))
 - a. With Jesus as our example, this dramatically changes the posture of parents, fathers in particular. ([Philippians 2:6-7](#))
 - b. Can ≠ Should
 - c. A real loss of motivation is possible in our children.

3. A posture of loving responsibility is only possible through being actively present in our children's lives.
 - a. Like firing an arrow at a target, parenting has an end in mind; the powerful release of a person into their God-given potential to impact the world. ([Psalm 127:3-5a](#))
 - b. To be actively present in this way requires the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. ([Ephesians 3:16-19](#)).

Am I focused OUT?

- How active is your presence with your family?
- What is your posture while present?
- Are you allowing the presence of the Holy Spirit to impact how you engage your family?

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