



Alleluia! Adult Ministries

Sermon-Based Study
for Connect Groups

May 5, 2019

Sermon Series: Parenting Ain't Easy

Title: The Comparing Game

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Connecting

Take a moment to introduce yourselves to one another.
Share a "High" and/or "Low" from the past week with the group.

Opening Prayer

Read Today's Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Discussion

1. How easy it for parents to compare their child to other siblings or other children? Share a time that you compared your child to someone else, or a time you remember one of our parents comparing you to a sibling or another child. How did either make you feel? Do you think comparing children helps or hurts their self-esteem?
2. Read 1 Samuel 16:7 again. How does this verse speak into a culture that is overly competitive and rewards-based?
3. When God says he looks at the "heart," what do you think He means by "heart?"
4. Pastor Tim encouraged parents to "empathize, not criticize" their children. Share a time you criticized your child in comparing them to another child, when empathy might have been a better option?
5. How hard is it to focus on your child's character instead of their achievements? Are parents in our culture too concerned with their child's achievements? What are some practical ways parents could focus on their child's character? Read Galatians 5:22, 23. How can parents lift up these characteristics in their children and nurture them? What characteristics listed in this text could you tell your child/children you see in them and celebrate that with them?
6. If you have more than one child, talk about their uniqueness. If you have only one child, how is your child unique from other children? Read Jeremiah 1:5. Do you believe this is true for your child/children?

Closing Prayer