

## Ready to Launch: Jesus-centered parenting in a child-centered world.

Book review by Warwick Alcock, Director of Strategic Operations

If you're looking for a great study guide for parents keen on Biblically informed parenting, *Ready to Launch* is a good place to start. The sub-title makes an important point: godly parenting is not child-centered, it's Jesus-centered — and that makes all the difference. Child-centered parenting puts the child's interests first, with the child central to the learning experience. As parents, it's easy to idolize our children, making them an adornment of our lives, or saturating them with comfortable, safe experiences, while keeping them free from hardship.



However, as J.D. Greear, one of the co-authors, states, this kind of parenting stunts children's development, keeping them safe but useless, and ignores the ultimate mission of parenting, which is to mobilize children for the mission of God. Jesus-centered parenting puts Jesus in the center instead of the child. God made our children adventurous, and there's nothing more adventurous than serving God, whatever vocation one chooses. So as parents, prepare to release children for mission! Parenting, then, is about preparing children, not for a life of self-centeredness, but for God's mission.

This study guide consists of a workbook and DVD designed for use by parents in a small group setting. J.D. Greear and his wife Veronica, speak from experience raising four children. J.D. Greear has a Ph.D. in Theology from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he is also a faculty member. In addition, he is lead pastor at The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, NC. He is well-qualified to speak on this topic.

The DVD consists of seven video sessions of 13-19 minutes each. The study helps parents think through parenting — including the tough times as parents — from a thoroughly Biblical perspective. By the end of the study, parents will have worked through six-step 'Family Action Plan' with the following focus areas:

1. A family mission statement — to keep the family aligned with Biblical goals and values.
2. Teaching the gospel — to help children internalize the gospel and memorize Scripture.
3. A family calendar — to help ensure the family makes time for God to work in the family.
4. Acts 1:8 strategy — to help the family implement the Great Commission.
5. Discipline — to help ensure consistent but loving Biblical discipline.
6. Prayer — to focus prayer on good discipling, with reference to each child's goals, gifting, mentors and challenges.

In my judgement, parents will enjoy using a book that is thoroughly Scriptural, well researched, and packed with practical examples that make the concepts straightforward to implement. This is a highly recommended study guide for dads and moms looking for an excellent way to disciple their children.