

**“Growing in Wisdom as a Parent”**  
**Proverbs 24:3 & 22:6**

1. Wise parents understand the power of **training**.

What gets rewarded gets **repeated**

What gets repeated gets **embedded**

2. Wise parents have **goals** for each stage of parenting.

Nurturing Trainer (0-1)

Primary goals: Helping them feel **loved** and secure; learn to **trust**.

Primary skills: **Attentive** observation, showing love and affection, meeting **needs**, creating a schedule, **wisdom**.

Directive Trainer (1-5)

Primary goals: Helping them feel loved; learn to listen and **obey**.

Know God **loves** them.

Primary skills: Attentive observation, showing love and affection, **patient** instruction, positive reinforcement, loving **discipline**, wisdom.

Encouraging Trainer (5-12)

Primary goals: Helping them feel loved; begin to learn to make **wise** decisions.

Learn God’s **character**.

Primary skills: Attentive observation, showing love and affection, positive reinforcement, **delegation**, letting them fail, loving discipline, wisdom.

Supportive Coach (12-17)

Primary goals: Helping them feel **accepted**, keeping communication open, **choosing** healthy friends, making wise decisions, pursue God’s **purpose** for their life.

Primary skills: Attentive observation, showing love and affection, positive reinforcement, delegation, letting them fail, loving discipline, **letting go**, communication, wisdom.

Caring Consultant (18+)

Primary goals: Help them feel **supported**, help them to **discern**.

Primary skills: Letting go, showing love and affection, **wisdom**.

3. Wise parents have a clear overall **goal** in their training.

The goal of parental training: To help your kids **become like Christ**

**LifeGroup Questions: Applying the Teaching to Our Life**

1. Have you ever entered into training for a sport or your job or something else? What parallels do you see between that training and parental training?
2. What are some of the more popular goals people have for their kids? Once you have heard a few responses, then evaluate: in what ways are they adequate or inadequate goals?
3. If you are a seasoned parent in your group, what do you think is the most helpful advice you could pass along to younger parents?
4. If all of your children have left home, look back on your parenting days: which stage of parenting did you find most difficult? Which did you find most enjoyable?
5. If you have kids at home right now, what are some of the goals you have for them that you are working towards?
6. End your group time by praying for each other and some of the goals or challenges that have been mentioned.

**Core CHRISTlike Characteristic: Relates with Other-Centered Love/Loving People**