



# This Is Us

## Part 1 - Raising “Successful” Kids Discussion Guide

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Whether you are a brand-new parent, are a confirmed single, have a pack of grandkids underfoot, or you have dreams of that future family: the family of God needs to support the people of God in raising the next generation. You may need to apply these principles in your family today. You may need to prepare yourself for your next season of life. You may need to encourage a struggling parent with these truths from God’s Word. No matter your current situation, let’s apply God’s wisdom to the task of helping raise “successful” kids.

### *Jump Start*

1. Share one of the most powerful parenting moments you have experienced, either as a child or as the parent.
2. *We are stewards.* Read [Psalm 139:13-14](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:15](#). We can mistakenly think children are possessions that belong to their parents and their actions reflect on their parents. What do these verses truly reveal about children?
3. *Culture.* Read [Psalm 112:1-4](#), [Proverbs 22:6](#), and [Joshua 24:15](#). Children will do what we do. What you expose them to will have an impact on their lives. From these verses, what would you say is the most important thing you can do for your children?
4. *Boundaries.* Read [Ephesians 6:4](#) and [Philippians 4:8](#). We were reminded this weekend that we need to protect our children: what they see, what they do, and who they are with. Remember, parenting is not just about teaching them rules, but instilling in them a desire to find and follow God’s plan and purpose. Where are you winning and where can you improve on setting boundaries/guardrails and implementing discipline?
5. *Break the mold.* No matter your past, your history with absent or dysfunctional parents, and no matter if you have blown it, God can break the pattern of sin. Even if your kids have blown it, are out on their own, and you feel all hope is gone, this week is a time to start over. You heard: “Start where you are. Use what you have.” Share ways you can (or should) be speaking life into the children in your home or sphere of influence.

6. Final Thought: Read **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** out loud together:

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”***

Now read **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** for a fresh start, a clean slate, and a renewed relationship with God.

***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***

### **Deeper**

7. Read [Philippians 3:17, 4:9](#) and [1 Corinthians 11:1](#). What is the main point Paul makes in all three of these verses? Does it surprise you? What are your initial thoughts about making this statement to anyone else: your children, your employees, your spouse, your friends?
8. Read [Deuteronomy 6:5-7](#). You may have heard that children learn what is “caught, not taught.” What/how does this passage tell you to teach them. List the ways. Note other verses you have used in your parenting journey and share with your group.
9. One mistake we can make is guiding from our preferences. We can decide what we think our kids/spouse/friends need to do or change in order to be successful. Is your version of “success” the very same as God’s? Are you pushing your preference for how your child/friend/spouse should live their lives? Are you pushing your dreams or God’s purposes? Have you asked for God’s perspective on your child? Or asked how they are gifted and what their personality has to do with His purpose for them? List your insights and God’s revelations to you about your children as you speak to Him in your Quiet Time.
10. On your own, check out this five-part study called [“Effective Child Discipline”](#) by Chip Ingram. In the first session, there is an assessment you can take to find out your parenting style.