

# Small Groups

## Leader Conversation Guide – Parenting the Next Generation

### Main Idea

This week, Pastor Mark Pettus closes our series, “You Asked For It,” by helping us understand parenting with a biblical perspective. As much as we love being parents and want to be the kind of parents God has called us to be - it can sometimes feel overwhelming to raise children in today’s world. To know what to do and not do, how to pray, and how to let go of control, we must realize that above all, we need God! Rather we’re raising children now or part of an older generation, it’s important that we remember three things. First, the next generation is all our responsibility. We all have an opportunity to take what we’ve learned and pass it on. Next, we need to remember that there are no perfect parents. Parenting is hard and we are going to make mistakes. Lastly, while we may not be perfect, God is, and He is with us! Today, let’s lean on God as we parent our children and remember these foundational truths.

### Make It Practical

- Our children belong to God. When we know they belong to God, it clarifies our role, and it confronts our control.
- Our children require our intentionality. They don’t need our perfection; they need our intentional time.
- Our children need us to fight for them. The world is pushing an agenda and we are in a spiritual battle for our kids.

**“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about His power and His mighty wonders. So the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not**

# forgetting His glorious miracles and obeying His commands.”

Psalm 78:4,6-7 NLT

## Talk About It

1. Share with the group how this message impacted you. Do you feel challenged? Encouraged? Share a specific way you want to grow as a parent during this season of your life.
2. [Read Prov. 22:6] Sometimes as parents we have limited exposure to our children. How can we extend our influence on those other environments, even when they're not in our care?
3. We live in a busy world filled with work, friends, family, tasks to complete, etc. How can we, as parents, intentionally prioritize our lives to make sure we are available for our children?

**“Take a stand for their hearts. Take a stand for their faith. Take a stand for their future.”**

## Prayer

Father, thank You for allowing us to be a part of raising the next generation. May we raise them well, and may they be mighty for Your Kingdom, Lord. Help us to see the opportunity we have before us to fight for our children and the next generation. Give us wisdom, passion, and ideas for how we can invest in them. We ask You to bless every child and parent represented in our group with a spirit of unity. We ask for a transcending peace over our children and our relationships with them. Give our children a healthy fear and reverence of You, God. Surround them with Your divine favor. We believe You are doing powerful things in the next generation. Show us how You want us to be a part. It's in Your mighty name we pray, Jesus. Amen!

## Leader Tips

Encourage your group members to think about how they can be a part of helping develop the next generation here at Highlands. Talk about the opportunities to lead Small Groups for students, to serve in Highlands Kids, and to serve with Highlands Students. Challenge your group members to attend Growth Track next month and get involved!