

## ***Spiritual Parenting: Leader Guide***

The *Spiritual Parenting: Leader Guide* is designed to be used along with the Spiritual Parenting videos, presentation slides, book, and podcast series. As the leader, you will teach and facilitate conversations throughout six sessions. Here is a list of things to do:

- Purchase a book for each person (or allow those in the group to purchase it ahead of time).
- Read the *Spiritual Parenting* book. Highlight any portions that you want to elaborate on or tell your own story that will illustrate the biblical truths discussed.
- Download the PowerPoint *Presentation Slides* and go through each session to familiarize yourself with the content in order to manage your time.
- Suggested time for each session is 90 min, which includes teaching and table conversations.
- Locate the *Spiritual Parenting Podcasts* on the website. The podcasts can be watched during the week as reinforcement and practical application from course information. These podcasts are conversations with parents and grandparents, who offer practical insight to the 10 Environments in *Spiritual Parenting*. Each podcast is approximately 20 minutes long and are available on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple podcast.
- Download and print a copy of the *Participant Guide* for each person. Make sure to use the "print version" instead of the "online version" if you desire the booklet to be half sheet/double-sided/stapled in the middle (magazine style). You can also print it full sheet/double-sided and stapled at the top with the online version.
- Prepare for the topics covered in the *Spiritual Parenting Presentation Slides* along with any coordinating notes or suggestions for the six sessions:

### **1. Session One: An Awakening to Spiritual Parenting**

- Read chapter 1 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the first session by introducing yourself and allowing the others to introduce themselves.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides* #1-11.
- There is an overview of the 10 Environments from the *Spiritual Parenting* book on slide #2.
- There is a video embedded in slide #6. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- After Table Questions on slides #9-10, have a few people share their learnings. Encourage them to read chapters 1-3 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book before the next session.
- Encourage families to watch episode #1 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Close in prayer and give families a blessing.

## 2. Session Two: Environments for Cultivating Faith and Storytelling

- Read chapters 2 and 3 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the session by allowing others to share about their week and how God may have used the material from last week in their homes or lives.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides #12-21*.
- There is an overview video of session two's content embedded in slide #15. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- Plan ahead to tell (in your own words) or read the Big God Story at slide #18. The content for this can be found on pages 48-53 in the book.
- Slide #19 offers a resource for parent's to read The Big God Story to their children, available for purchase wherever books are sold.
- After Table Questions on slide #20, have a few people share their learnings. Encourage them to read chapters 4 and 5 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book before the next session.
- Encourage families to watch episodes #2 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Close in prayer and give families a blessing.

## 3. Session Three: Environments for Cultivating Identity and Faith Community

- Read chapters 4 and 5 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the session by allowing others to share about their week and how God may have used the material from last week in their homes or lives.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides #22-39*.
- There is an overview video of session three's content embedded in slide #25. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- There is a Play-Doh exercise on slide #32. Give each person a small container of Play-Doh and instruct them to create something that represents their child/children. Have people share at their tables about their creation. Then instruct them to squish the Play-Doh in their hands tightly and press down their hands to hold the Play-Doh momentarily before letting go. Ask them to note what they see when they open their hands (the imprint of their hand on the Play-Doh). The first image represents parents creating their children in "their" image (including hopes/dreams/intentions) and the second image represents God imprinting His will and His image in their lives. Share thoughts/feelings about this exercise when finished at their tables.
- There is an identity statement on slide #34 (and also in their *Participant Guide*) where they can take turns putting their own names in and reading it. Encourage them to make this declaration for their children as well.



- After Table Questions on slides #33 and #38, have a few people share their learnings. Encourage them to read chapters 6 and 7 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book before the next session.
- Encourage families to watch episodes #3 and #4 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Close in prayer and give families a blessing.

#### **4. Session Four: Environments of Service and Out of the Comfort Zone**

- Read chapters 6 and 7 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the session by allowing others to share about their week and how God may have used the material from last week in their homes or lives.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides #40-57*.
- There is an overview video of session four's content embedded in slide #43. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- Encourage others to look up and read Scripture throughout the slides where verses are displayed.
- After Table Questions on slide #56, have a few people share their learnings. Encourage them to read chapters 8 and 9 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book before the next session.
- Encourage families to watch episodes #5 and #6 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Close in prayer and give families a blessing.

#### **5. Session Five: Environments of Responsibility and Course Correction**

- Read chapters 8 and 9 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the session by allowing others to share about their week and how God may have used the material from last week in their homes or lives.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides #58-73*.
- There is an overview video of session five's content embedded in slide #61. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- Encourage others to look up and read Scripture throughout the slides where verses are displayed.
- After Table Discussion on slide #72, have a few people share their learnings. Encourage them to read chapters 10, 11 and 12 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book before the next session.
- Encourage families to watch episodes #7 and #8 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Close in prayer and give families a blessing.

## 6. Session Six: Environments of Love and Respect, Knowing, and Modeling

- Read chapters 10,11 and 12 in the *Spiritual Parenting* book ahead of time.
- Open the session by allowing others to share about their week and how God may have used the material from last week in their homes or lives.
- Teach through the *Presentation Slides #74-96*.
- There is an overview video of session six's content embedded in slide #77. Make sure your sound is working ahead of time.
- Encourage others to look up and read Scripture throughout the slides where verses are displayed.
- After Table Questions on slide #91, have a few people share their learnings.
- Encourage families to watch episodes #9, #10, and #11 of the *Spiritual Parenting Podcast* during the next week.
- Allow families to share "Aha's" (slide #92) for the entire course.
- Offer *Faith and Family-A Spiritual Parenting Resource* as a next step to encourage ongoing faith formation in their homes. You can print these and hand them out or direct them to the website ([The-IFF.com](http://The-IFF.com)) to download their copy each season. If they have created an account, they will be alerted to the new issue each time it is posted.
- Have tables pray for one another and give families a final blessing before dismissing.