

Spiritual Parenting: Participant Guide

Overview

The *Spiritual Parenting: Participant Guide* is designed to be used to awaken spiritual parenting in your churches and homes and to be used along with the Spiritual Parenting videos, presentation slides, and book. It includes questions for reflection and conversation starters and is arranged for use in six sessions.

The following topics are covered in the *Participant Guide* and will support parents in cultivating their children's spiritual growth:

1. Session One: An Awakening to Spiritual Parenting

- Reflecting on raising children to be a light in the world amidst cultural and spiritual trials/challenges.
- Exploring the differences between traditional parenting and spiritual parenting.
- Discussing efforts against being “perfect parents” but rather supporting the Spirit's work in each family member.

2. Session Two: Environments for Cultivating Faith and Storytelling

- Identifying where the Holy Spirit is already at work in a child's life and coming alongside of that.
- Learning the story of God and how to share each person's unique part in it with children.

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

- Understanding the role of faith communities in shaping identity.
- Reflecting on sources that influence a child's self-perception.
- Intentionally sacrificing time and space for children to be part of a vibrant faith community.

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

- Preparing children with skills and faith to face trials.
- Supporting the Holy Spirit's work in a child's life regarding service and stepping out of comfort zones.
- Addressing fears as parents and reflecting on reactions to children's challenges.

5. Session Five: Environments of Responsibility and Course Correction

- Implementing course correction strategies for behavioral issues.
- Reflecting on discipline styles and personal barriers to teaching responsibility and the proclamation of the gospel to others.
- Identifying heart attitudes behind children's behaviors.
- Praying for guidance in correcting behavior and building up in love.

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

- Reflecting on experiences of love and discipline in childhood.
- Considering ways to show kindness and model forgiveness to children.
- Surrendering to God's guidance and sharing spiritual experiences with children.

