



Icebreaker



- What's the funniest mess a kid has ever made in your presence? (Markers on the wall? Flour explosion?)
- If you had to name the "season" of your life right now (in one word), what would it be?



Discussion Questions



- Read Proverbs 22:6. What does it mean to "train up a child in the way he should go"? How does understanding this as a wisdom principle rather than a guarantee shift our approach to raising the next generation?
- Parenting was compared to shaping an arrow—intentional, crafted, and aimed with purpose. In what ways can we apply this idea to relationships beyond parenting (mentoring, friendships, leadership)?
- "Later is longer." How does this truth affect the way we approach discipline, training, and mentorship?
- How do you see your role in shaping the next generation now?
- Have you ever struggled with wanting someone (child, mentee, friend) to fit a mold rather than embracing their uniqueness? How did you adjust?
- What's one thing your parents or mentors did right that you want to carry forward? What's something you want to do differently?
- how can we apply this principle of applying the right discipline at the right time to other areas of spiritual growth?
- What encouragement does the gospel offer to parents or mentors who feel like they've "messed up"?
- Read Matthew 5:37 ("Let your yes be yes and your no be no"). How does this verse apply to establishing trust and consistency in relationships, whether with children or others?



Thought for the Group



Parenting isn't just about getting through the day—it's about shaping the next generation with intentionality. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to "train up a child in the way he should go," but this isn't a promise that guarantees a perfect outcome. Instead, it's wisdom for guiding our children – or anyone we influence – toward a life that honors God.

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior, children are meant to be shaped, sharpened, and launched. Each season of parenting requires a different approach: discipline in the early years, training in childhood, coaching in the teen years, and mentoring as they step into adulthood. What we do now matters later—because later is longer.

The good news is that we aren't in this alone. God is the ultimate archer, and He provides the wisdom, grace, and strength we need. Even if we feel like we've made mistakes, His grace is bigger. Our role isn't to be perfect—it's to be faithful. Whether we're parents, mentors, or simply investing in the next generation, our influence matters.

So the challenge is simple: Be intentional, trust God in the process, and shape the arrows He's placed in your life with purpose.



Next Steps



- We were given this challenge: "Be faithful. You don't need a title, a kid, or a perfect track record—just a heart that says, 'Jesus, use me.'" What is one way you can step into a discipleship role in your life right now?
- If there's an area where you've been holding onto guilt or fear about how someone will turn out, surrender it to God in prayer. Write down a declaration of trust, reminding yourself that God is the ultimate archer, and commit to praying for that person daily this week.