



Parenting Guide

Sermon on the Mount | Week 7

Parenting Guides are provided by 2 Pillars Church to help *guide* parents in *guiding* their children in family devotional time during the week. We recommend using this around the breakfast or dinner table with your Bible open. We provide five sections aimed to be used five days out of the week (one per day). If you miss a day, skip it and move on. Don't allow this to be legalistic, but rather use it *guide* your devotional time together as a family.

*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

****For single or divorced parents, be sure to read in advance and prepare accordingly to tweak some of the questions.***

Day 1: Read Matthew 19:4-6

- Ask: Jesus asks here “have you not read?” and then he goes on to say what they should have read. Do you know where they would have read what it is that Jesus is referring to here?
 - *Your kids probably won't know the exact passage, but try to prompt them to Creation when God created man and woman. The specific passage is: Genesis 2:24*
- Ask: Where is Genesis at in the Bible? The end or the beginning?
- Read: Turn to Genesis 2:24 and read it (or have a child read it).
- Ask: This is referring to marriage. Who do we know that is married?
 - *Have fun with this - have them list as many people as they can think of that are married.*
- Pray: Take some time and pray for the marriages you thought of. Explain to you child/children that marriage is difficult because we are all sinful - even mommies and daddies. Use that as a springboard for prayer.

Day 2: Read Matthew 19:4-6 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: What is Jesus talking about here again? And what was he asking them if they had read?
 - *Marriage; Genesis*
- Ask: Jesus says here that a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife - what does that mean?
 - *Parents, talking about marriage typically has the ability to bring about all kinds of questions from your kids - have fun with this and use it as a teaching opportunity. Don't be overly concerned with following the questions here as much as following and answering the questions your kids are asking.*
 - *Simply, this means, that eventually kids grow up, and when they are married, they no longer live with their mommy and daddy but they get married themselves and usually become mommies and daddies themselves.*
 - Ask: What questions does this create for you?

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- *Again, be open and honest with your kids and try to answer questions as they arise.*
- Pray: Pray today for the potential future spouses of your children. That they would be godly men or women who love Jesus, love His gospel, and love them (your child).

Day 3: Read Matthew 19:4-6 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: Jesus says here that the man and woman - the husband and the wife - should become one flesh. What do you think that means?
 - *It means they are united - they are permanently joined together.*
- Say: Marriage is a covenant - do you know what a covenant is?
 - *It's when two people make an agreement and no matter what, they keep that agreement. Even if the other person doesn't do what they promised to do.*
- Ask: When you think about marriage being a covenant and Jesus' words that the husband and wife become one flesh - does that sound like something that ever ends?
 - *No, it's to be a lifelong commitment - only to be broken by death.*
- Pray: For lasting marriage. For mommy and daddy, for other marriages you can think of (friends, family members), and also for your children's future marriages to be lasting, healthy, and God-honoring.

Day 4: Read Matthew 19:4-6 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Ask: What does it mean to become "one flesh" again?
- Ask: What else have we learned about marriage?
 - *It's a covenant. Recap what that means.*
- Re-read: Matthew 19:6.
- Ask: What does Jesus say about marriage at the end of this verse?
 - *Let no man separate.*
- Ask: Why do you think Jesus says that?
 - *Guide them towards understanding the importance of a marriage.*
 - *Don't be afraid here to talk about those you may know who are divorced or who have been affected by divorce.*
 - *Don't be afraid to talk about how hard it must be to not have a mommy or a daddy.*
 - *What you want them to see is the importance of lasting marriage.*
- Pray: Pray again for lasting marriages - for mommy and daddy, as well as others. If you have discussed those who have been affected by divorce, pray for them - pray for God to comfort them and for them to know God and His comfort.

Day 5: Read Matthew 19:4-6 (for older kids, have them read it or take turns)

- Use this day to recap and re-emphasize any points from the above. If you missed a day, use this as a catch-up day.
- Remember to always pray to close your time together.